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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 1--

HOOVER MAPS PLAN TO FEED EUROPE-Washington-Herbert Hoover arrived tonight to participate in President Truman's food conference expressing the firm conviction that Americans should voluntarily eat less to help feed the starving abroad.

The former President, who won a world-wide reputation for the work as Food Administrator in the first World War, emphasized that the program should be voluntary.

"I believe less food was consumed per capita during the last war when we had voluntary rationing," he told reporters, "than during this war when we had compulsory rationing."

Mr. Hoover said the problem was to find some way to feed starving Europeans between now and June.

"After the next harvest," he remarked, "they will be out of the woods."

He said he saw two phases to the problem as far as this country was concerned. To eliminate waste and get Americans to use substitutes.

In connection Mr. Hoover declared, for illustration, that Europeans could use only wheat for bread while Americans often ate corn bread and could eat more, thus making more wheat available for export.

BRITISH CABINET CONSIDERS FOOD-London-Cabinet Ministers met today to seek remedies for the grave food situation in the British zone in Germany on the basis of a report from Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

"Whatever is decided will have to be drastic," Mr. Hynd said. There is no question, he added, of diverting British food to Germany but any surplus food, like potatoes of inferior quality, will be sent.

UNRRA SEES PERIL OF FAMINE IN ITALY-Rome-Italy has the lowest bread in Europe, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's headquarters said today as it prepared to assume full responsibility tomorrow for the first time, for the supply of basic necessities to Italy. "It is not an exaggeration," the statement said, "to say that there are thousands upon thousands of people living near the edge of starvation in Italy--many right around Rome."

ALLIES ASKED TO POOL FOOD TO AVERT CRISIS IN GERMANY-Berlin-Within twenty-four hours after the announcement by British military authorities that a drastic reduction in rations was impending in their zone of occupation, to become effective March 4, the food situation in Germany has moved swiftly from the status as an outstanding anxiety for the civilian population to one of acute apprehension in all quarters.

It was the dominant theme this afternoon at a session of the Allied Control Council, which shares the most obscure peasants the general misgiving as to what prospects are in store for the immediate future.

From The New York Times, March 1 (Cont.) -

FOOD FOR INDIA ASKED TO AVERT NEW FAMINE-Widespread famine, more severe than that which starved the Indian people in 1943, when more than 1,000,000 persons lost their lives, faces that nation unless 2,000,000 tons of cereals are made available in the next four months, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, head of the India Food Delegation, declared yesterday upon his arrival at La Guardia Field from Hurn, England.

Sir Ramaswami, who was accompanied by Sir Robert Hutchings, secretary of the Department of Food in India, said the appeal for an allotment would be made to the Combined Food Board in Washington.

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SEASON HIGHS SET BY COTTON PRICES-New high prices for the season were established yesterday in the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange and final prices were 11 to 30 points net higher than on Wednesday.

Renewed attacks against Office of Price Administration before Congressional committees and talk of establishing new parity formula brought in new buying.

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STRONG UNDERTONE IN MAY RYE TRADE-Chicago-May rye continues to contribute a large part of business on the Board of Trade, although brokers estimate that the percentage today was smaller than earlier in the week, when trade in rye was over 50 per cent of the total. Removal of hedges against export sales gave the market a strong undertone and the close was 3 cents higher.

Trade in oats futures was light, with May holding unchanged at the ceiling and the active months were 1/8 cent up to 1/8 cent off. Wheat, corn and barley held at maximum prices.

Liquidation by holders of May wheat was under way in heavy volume, brokers estimating that over 1,000,000 bushels was sold all at \$1.80¹/₂, the ceiling price and there was also changing between May and the distant futures. Mills have about given up trying to get definite information on some phases of the new Government wheat regulations, and are said to be buying cash wheat, and will continue to do so, until the Government tells them they are wrong. Mills will close generally for two or three days, effective tomorrow, to change over to grinding the new 50 per cent extraction flour.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 1 -

"TO STOP THE SPREAD OF FAMINE"-Editorial-President Truman has called a conference of civic leaders today to enlist private citizens in "an aggressive voluntary program...to reduce food consumption in this country." The President's invitation noted that former President Hoover, moving spirit of World War I's extraordinarily effective food-conservation efforts, would attend. That itself is an encouraging indication that this voluntary program, instituted as the world food situation assumes crisis proportions, will be organized with the same thoroughness, the same fervor, the same broad conception of what is required as was that earlier effort. The nation's mobilization "to stop the spread of famine" has come late. The President's directive of Feb. 6 to implement grain conservation and speed food shipments was late. And, as Mr. Truman states frankly, government efforts have not been enough. His Cabinet committee reports that this country is already falling below its goal, which is to ship enough food to maintain a subsistence level abroad.

An appeal to the public is not only in order, it is essential.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 1 -

SOUTHERN SENATORS may campaign for the removal of cotton textiles from O.P.A. jurisdiction. This prospect developed yesterday when C. A. Cannon, president of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association, testified before a senate Agriculture Subcommittee investigating the clothing shortage. Mr. Cannon told the Senators, most of them from cotton states, that removal of controls from cotton fabrics would bring "some relief" in less than three months and that within six months there would be no scarcity of cotton clothing. The line of questioning pursued by members of the subcommittee indicated they were preparing to seek radical changes in the price control extension bill. Other senators, like Chairman Elmer Thomas of the Senate Agriculture Committee, are expected to fight for elimination of price control from all farm commodities.

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GENERAL BAKING CO. - The General Baking Co. in 1945 faced rising operating costs against fixed price ceiling for the products sold. Although the scarcity of certain ingredients curtailed production and created manufacturing problems, the demand was so great that it was no task to chalk up a record volume. Sales were \$73,338,498 against \$70,055,897 in 1944. Net earnings were \$1,897,759, equal after preferred dividends, to 76.4 cents a share, against \$1,792,326, or 70.8 cents a share, in the preceding year.

George L. Morrison, president, told stockholders in the pamphlet report that the operating margin had narrowed to a point where "it is imperative that some upward adjustments be allowed in the selling of Bread."

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BREAD FLOUR CEILING TO BE UNCHANGED, Washington-Flour ceiling prices will not be changed as the result of the Federal order which calls for "grayish bread" the Office of Price Administration said. The new higher extraction flour complies with the price regulation for straight flours, the O.P.A. said.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 1 -

HARVESTER UNION SEEKS TRUMAN AID, Chicago - The CIO-Union Farm Equipment and Metal Workers Union today accused the International Harvester Co. of engaging in "a sitdown strike against the Government and the welfare of our citizens."

The union announced it had telegraphed President Truman and Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, stating its views, and asking them to "use every available means to prevent this company from sabotaging the national food program."

Thirty thousand union production workers have been on strike at eleven Harvester plants since Jan. 21, demanding a 30 per cent general wage increase but the union accepted a fact-finding panel's recommendation for an 18c hourly increase.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 1 (Cont) -

COTTON IS FACING FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL - Cotton is reaching a crossroads in its history where it is facing a fight for its existence, Hugh M. Comer, president of Avondale Mills, told the New York Credit Men's Association last night.

He emphasized that the cotton industry can expand and prosper if mechanization is promoted in farming. The key to better farming, he said, is broader use of the flame cultivator and the mechanical picker.

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PREPARING PLANS FOR COTTON WEEK - Cotton Week posters this year will emphasize the fact that the cotton textile industry, having satisfied the bulk of war demands, is now turning its tremendous productive power to the manufacture of civilian goods. The slogan chosen for the event scheduled for May 20-25 is "COTTON IS BACK."

While shortages of many cotton items persist, the industry is working hard to overcome them. With mills daily adding more workers to their pay rolls, it appears that a solution of the manpower problems that have long afflicted the industry is now in sight. Mills in December added 24,000 operatives.

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DAIRY SANITATION DRIVE LOOKED FOR, Madison - A discreet warning that the Federal Food and Drug Administration may one day soon crack down on the dairy industry comes from one of the best-known dairy industry spokesmen of the State.

Higher standards of dairy sanitation, probably under Federal Government compulsion, are on the immediate horizon for the producer and manufacturer of dairy products, Prof. Walter V. Price of the dairy industry division of the State college of agriculture here said in an address to dairy industry fieldmen.

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MARKETS - Hogs maintain firmness as supplies clear quickly...Packers reported withdrawing all offerings of small size prunes...Further advance in iced chicken prices...Demand for lettuce eases but prices steady...Prices for apples fully maintained...Western eggs strong on speculation, nearby irregular...Increasing reports of butter black marketing...Further tightening of cheese supplies...October egg futures zoom on news of relief buying.

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FLOUR MILLS STILL WITHHOLD OFFERS - Although additional sales of small lots of high extraction flour were reported yesterday the majority of mills remained out of the market pending clarification of some of the problems created by the new regulations, including definite information regarding ceiling prices to be in effect, and were also still engaged in studying costs.

A report from the Southwest stated that mills there expected their output to be lowered 5 to 10 per cent by the increase time required for turning out the higher extraction flour and it was believed that this would also hold true in other milling sections.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Feb. 28 -

BRITISH FARM HANDS ASK \$18-London,-An official of the National Union of Agricultural Workers said today that British farm hands will strike unless they are awarded a minimum weekly wage of \$18. This would be an increase of \$4.

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From The Topeka Daily Capital, Feb. 24 -

EARLY PLANTED WHEAT HARD HIT BY FLY-Hutchinson, Kan., Feb. 23.-- Reno County faces a heavier wheat loss from Hessian fly this year than from soil-blowing, Farm Agent Don Ingle predicted this week, as reports of unusually heavy infestation accumulated.

While it is impossible to determine accurately the abnormal loss, Ingle estimated that 50,000 wheat acres are infested from 5 to 100 per cent.

Some farmers have reported a total loss of the current crop from Hessian fly. The heaviest infestation here apparently is in the Arlington - Plevna - Turon - Sylvia area of Southwest Reno, but reports have come also from other scattered sections of the country.

Stafford and Rice counties also are known to have lost wheat, but the fly is believed not to have bothered western areas of the state so heavily.

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From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Feb. 21 -

GROWERS MUST UNITE, FARM BUREAU IS TOLD- Shall American farmers advocate full production and free prices or restricted production with guaranteed subsidies and parity prices? Should farmers approve adjusted production and floor prices or directed production through price or subsidy control?

These vital, timely questions, upon which farmers must soon make a decision, were propounded before the Shelby County Farm Bureau at its annual mid-Winter banquet last night. They were asked, and then discussed by H. C. Sanders, director of the Louisiana Extension Service.

Making a plea for a strongly organized agriculture, Mr. Sanders emphasized that only through organization and co-operation may farmers wield their rightful influence in the halls of Congress. "As an individual," he said, "you can do little toward solving the farm problems that loom ahead, but as a member of an organized group your voice gains volume a thousandfold."

Mr. Sanders scored the theory that high industrial employment and good wages necessarily mean that farmers also will be prosperous. This theory, he emphasized, was disproved in the 1920s, when industry was prosperous and farmers were almost bankrupt.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Feb. 26 -

BLACK MARKET OF CORN LAID TO OPA PRICING-Office of price administration controls on corn have caused widespread black market operations which have created a shortage of the grain despite the third largest crop on record last year, grain traders said yesterday.

From The Commercial Appeal, Feb. 21 -

ARMY PICKS COTTON FOR MOST OF TIRES-New and revealing facts about the rayon-cotton controversy in the manufacture of tire cord have turned up in the revelation of Army tire specifications, now in the hands of the National Cotton Council.

The specifications, which were issued last April and have not been changed since, seem to disprove the claims that the "Army moves on rayon" or that cotton has been displaced by rayon in the manufacture of tires for the Army.

The Army, it is revealed, specifies that cotton cord--and only cotton cord--shall be used in tires of all rim diameters and in all tire diameters up to 7.50 inches, whether of 6, 8 or 10 ply. Cotton is also specified for all motorcycle tires.

For tires over 7.50 inches in diameter rayon is specified, but cotton is given as an alternate. Rayon, however, is not specified as an alternate in the case of the smaller tires.

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From San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 22 -

FROZEN FOOD IS CALLED REVOLUTIONARY-Pre-cooked, frozen foods will revolutionize the restaurant business in the next few years, George R. LeSavage predicted here last night at an industry banquet at the St. Francis Hotel.

LeSavage, president of the National Restaurant Association, said meats, vegetables and even bread will be merely thawed out, heated and served.

Food supplies will remain tight for another year, he said, but the quality of foods served in restaurants will have to improve.

"Millions of returning veterans have been eating better food than ever before during the war," he said, adding that he exempted combat troops and those in advanced bases who lived largely on K and C rations.

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From The Times-Picayune New Orleans States, Feb. 24 -

VA STARTS TRAINING VETERANS FOR FARMING IN TANGIPAHOA-Hammond, La.- The GI return to the farm has already started in Tangipahoa parish, and under the supervision of the state selfproprietorship training program, a score of disabled veterans are working their own strawberry, dairy and truck farms.

The extensive program, which was set up by the veterans' administration, is under trial in Louisiana, first state in the Union to get its veterans enrolled. Arrangements have been made with the state department of education to give intensified training and the plan of instruction has been prepared by the senior agricultural training officer-- in Louisiana, D. C. Lavergne.

From Ponchatoula in the south, up through the famed strawberry belt to the Livingston line, returned veterans who have borrowed money to buy their farms are benefiting from the VA program.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison.)

From The New York Times, March 4 -

MILLS CONVERTING TO NEW TYPE FLOUR-Chicago-Flour mills in general closed over the weekend to convert equipment for producing the new 80 per cent extraction flour in line with the Government's wheat-conservation program designed to enable a saving of 50,000,000 bushels of wheat before June 30 in order to release grain for shipment to Europe. It will be several weeks before use of the new flour becomes general.

Although there is an ample supply of wheat in the United States to provide for all domestic requirements and still leave sufficient grain to take care of the proposed Government export program, statisticians say Europe will take every bushel of grain that this country can send.

The bottleneck being in transportation rather than in a lack of supplies in the country, the Interstate Commerce Commission has ordered that, effective on March 5, orders for empty cars for the shipment of all grain and other farm commodities to designated terminal markets shall be given priority over other commodities. However, the same order gives priority for export over domestic shipments.

Under no present condition can exporting countries meet the demands of European requirements, owing to an inability to move the grain, and experts say there is not sufficient wheat in the leading world producing areas to cover the requirements.

TREES AS FARM CROP ON WIDE SCALE SEEN-A movement to grow trees as an agricultural crop on a much larger scale than at present was endorsed by representative of the forest industries, users of wood, paper and other forest products and State and governmental agencies, it was announced today by the American Forest Products Industries, Inc.

"Aggressive educational leadership aimed at nothing less than continuous growing of trees on every acre of land adapted to that purpose," was adopted as the goal of the group, following the presentation of such a program by Col. William B. Greeley, Seattle, former chief forest of the United States and now chairman of the trustees of the American Forest Products Industries.

LARD MARKET SLOW AS THE TRADE AWAITS EFFECTS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT PRICES-Chicago-Open market trading in cash lard was very slow last week as trade interests awaited the result of the new Government prices incident to the higher wages awarded workers at large packing plants, which are expected to be adopted by the smaller plants. Business was confined to a few car lots of refined lard to the export trade and the usual distribution through packers' direct outlets.

The shortage of feed grains is increasing and it is feared that farmers will start to liquidate heavy weight hogs. Average weight of the arrivals last week was again heavy.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's New York Times.)

From The New York Times, March 4, (Cont.) -

COTTON PRICES UP 46 TO 66 POINTS-After easiness in early trading last week, cotton prices in the domestic market turned strong in subsequent dealings and again established new seasonal highs. At the close on Saturday, active futures contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange showed net gains for the week of 46 to 66 points.

The temporary reaction of the market at the beginning of the week reflected general liquidation and selling stimulated by weakness in the securities market and, to a lesser extent, by uncertainty over Washington developments. Also a factor in the decline was liquidation attending circulation of March notices.

The strength of the market in subsequent dealings was occasioned by a substantial increase in demand, at a time when the supply of contracts was relatively limited. Buying sentiment was also influenced by intensified opposition to Office of Price Administration pricing policies, the cutting in half of OPA and Civilian Production Administration funds for the balance of the fiscal year, the further rise in parity and continued pressure for a new parity formula that will include wage costs, and the Department of Agriculture's announcement concerning a change in its sales program procedure.

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CASH OATS MORE ACTIVE-Chicago-An undercurrent of bearishness developed last week in regard to the ultimate trend of September and December oats, which sold yesterday at 81 cents a bushel, the ceiling price, or the same as May and July. However, brokers say there is no actual shortage of cash oats and a Department of Agriculture report suggested that the carryover at the end of the crop year may be 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels in excess of the 239,000,000 on hand on July 1, 1945. Neither Canada nor the United States is expected to export any material amount of oats before the end of the season, as wheat is the grain most wanted abroad.

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GRAIN TRADING IN CHICAGO-Chicago-Trading in grain futures on the Board of Trade was curtailed further last week. The daily average of 7,700,000 bushels being the smallest in several months, and comparing with 10,100,000 the week before and 16,500,000 a year ago. May rye, the only future not affected by limitations of the Office of Price Administration, accounted for about 50 per cent of the business.

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FOOD RIOTERS RAID SOUTH INDIA STORES-Bombay, India-Police fired on a mob storming a rationing office in Southern India today, wounding six persons as the Government of India announced officially that famine conditions were spreading swiftly across eleven districts in that area.

The food riots, considered an omen of the crisis yet to come, occurred at the holy Hindu city of Conjeevaram, forty two miles southwest of Madras. Some in the mob raided a cooperative store and removed bags of rice while others attacked the rationing office.

The Government of India said that famine already was manifest in two districts of Madras Province, as well as in five districts of Bombay and four districts of Madras.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 4 -

ANDERSON OPPOSES 2-PRICE COTTON PLAN, Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson is flatly opposed to suggestions, advanced by State Department sources and others in the Government, of allowing United States domestic cotton prices to fall to world levels and making up the difference to farmers by Treasury compensatory payments.

Despite the widespread impression which has grown up that Secretary Anderson was sympathetic to this plan, and despite the support for the plan given by Bureau of Agriculture Economics studies, the Agriculture Secretary has told members of Congress that he will direct his efforts against the adoption of the compensatory payment proposals.

Among Government spokesmen Dean Acheson, Under Secretary of State, has advocated the revamping of the existing support mechanism for farm prices and the substitution of direct payments.

Secretary Anderson himself included the direct payment plan as one of several for meeting the parity-revision problem at a much-publicized South Carolina address, but he has since told members of the legislative body that he did not mean to give the plan his indorsement. "I do not want any part of it," he declared in stating his position.

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US 'DARK FLOUR' PROGRAM SEEN JEOPARDIZING MILLERS' COMPETITIVE STATUS IN EXPORT SALES - The United States may actually be the only one of the four major wheat exporters to adopt the higher extraction darker flour for its own nationals in order to provide additional supplies of wheat and flour for deficiency countries.

Other exporting countries thus far have taken no action to implement the conservation program decreed by President Truman by similar actions.

Flour millers are especially concerned over the continued production of white flour in Canada which, it is feared, will again garner most of the export trade to Latin American countries after the domestic product had staged a sharp recovery in those markets during the past few years.

All European countries currently are extracting 80 per cent or more with France, Greece and Germany at 90 and Italy at 91 per cent.

Also causing much worry to close students of the grain situation is a conviction that the United States export goal has been fixed at too high a level which, if carried out, will reduce the United States reserve supply to a dangerously low level by the end of the present crop season.

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NITRATE DELIVERIES WILL BE DELAYED HERE - The fertilizer industry is entering the most active period of the year. Favored with suitable weather conditions, spring plowing should get under way in some areas within the next few weeks, and farmers are reported taking more mixed fertilizers in anticipation of an early season. Because of shortages of various basic material necessary in the manufacture of complete or mixed FERTILIZERS, it is generally feared the real pinch in supplies will be felt as farmers' requirements increase in the coming quarter.

A delay of several weeks is expected in the arrival of SODIUM NITRATE from Chile for March delivery and by reason of a shortage of SODA ASH, output of domestic NITRATE is failing to come up to expectations.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 445-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 4 -

EGYPTIAN COTTON USED FOR BARTER, Jerusalem - The Egyptian Government has issued permits for the export of 500,000 kantars (1 kantar equals 99.049 lbs.) of cotton to Italy, Rumania and Sweden in exchange for the import of \$14,000,000 worth of cotton manufactures, wood and newsprint from these countries.

The efforts by the Egyptian Government to restore trade with Europe by barter are of special interest when reviewing the background of these transactions. Egypt has accumulated a reserve of 12,500,000 kantars of cotton, of which 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 are required for the Egyptian weaving factories and for the British Supply Board. The remainder is available for free marketing. About 4,500,000 of this reserve is of the selected karnak quality.

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SUGAR USE BONUS HELD PROBABLE - Lamborn & Co., commenting on the bonus talk, say that the reports are that a Spare Stamp in War Ration Book 4 will be validated for five pounds. "OPA has made no announcement concerning such a stamp, Lamborn says, "but the fact that the President has again called home vegetable gardens and the maximum household preservation of food appears to make it imperative that OPA take some action in connection with sugar for canning purposes.

"Because OPA's countrywide organization has been considerably thinned out since hostilities ended and all items except sugar were removed from rationing, it is probably no longer in a position to screen individual applications for home canning sugar in the volume in which they would be received if the home canning sugar program were based entirely on that method of procedure."

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SPOT RAISIN CALL CONTINUES ACTIVE - Demand for dried fruits on spot Saturday centered almost entirely in raisins and prunes. Supplies of both of these fruits are almost exhausted. Furthermore, the trade feels that there will be no replacements made during the balance of the current crop year. Packers are understood to be carrying fair supplies against Government set-asides, but with the reports of extremely small food stocks in Europe, and the necessity of increasing shipments to many countries abroad to meet part of their requirements, it was considered hardly possible that any of these set-asides would be used in meeting domestic trade demands. Shipments of practically all of these to European countries is now considered a practical certainty.

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MARKETS - Flour mills predict a continued tight flour supply position due to prospect of reduced outturn under new operation and unfavorable cash wheat supply situation....Hog receipts small; prices steady..... Eastern iced chickens weaken under heavy arrivals...Continued firmness in onion prices.

From New York Herald Tribune, March 1 -

A.W.V.S. BACKS TRUMAN APPEAL WITH FOOD GIFTS-President Truman's appeal for voluntary food conservation will have the whole-hearted support of the American Women's Voluntary Services, Mrs. Bernard F. Gimbel, vice-president of the organization, told a large audience attending the Share-the-Food Shower sponsored by the organization yesterday.

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From New York Herald Tribune, March 1 -

TRUMAN FOOD PLAN IS BACKED BY CHURCH UNIT-Full support for whatever may be required to activate President Truman's plan for reduced food consumption in America was pledged yesterday by a new Protestant commission which aims to develop channels of understanding between Church and lay activities.

Inauguration of this group, the Human Relations Commission of the Protestant Council of New York, was announced yesterday.

In outlining the first action taken by the commission, the Rev. Robert W. Searle, executive secretary, declared, "We commend the President for every effort he has suggested to meet the need of the starving people of the world, including the extension of rationing, if necessary."

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From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Feb. 26 -

CALL TO GARDENERS, Editorial, President Truman and Secretary of Agriculture Anderson have joined in a plea to the people of the United States to expand their production of food this season. Secretary Anderson devoted himself to urging farmers to plant a million more acres of wheat and corn, while President Truman's call went particularly to the home gardeners, the men and women who made such a splendid contribution during the war.

The home gardeners this year will perform substantially the same service they did while fighting was in progress. They will provide a large part of the food they consume, and thus release other supplies for the improvement of a food situation that is perhaps the worst the world has known in modern times. With the experience they have gained over the war years, the home gardeners can do the best job of all this season, and unquestionably they will.

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From Des Moines Register, Feb. 26 -

RISE IN BUTTER WOULD VEX OES-Washington, D. C. (AP) -- The office of economic stabilization (OES) would be "very seriously concerned" if butter prices are increased, Brainerd Currie, OES assistant general counsel, indicated Monday.

He testified before a special house food investigating committee which had heard a long list of witnesses assert butter prices are out of line with other dairy products and should be raised.

Thomas G. Stitts, chief of the dairy section of the Agriculture Department, said butter prices were too low compared with other dairy products, and must be raised "or there will be no butter produced at all by next fall."

Currie said a 6 cents increase for butter now "would be a serious matter," pointing out that it was increased 6 cents a pound last October when the "roll-back" was removed.

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From Watertown Daily Times, Feb. 26 -

FIRST VICTORY FOR THE SUBSIDIES, Editorial, The Department of Agriculture announces that the food subsidies are not to be ended on March 31st, as originally planned, but will extend at least until July 1st and later, if congress acts prior to the deadline. In other words, Secretary Anderson has changed his mind. A few weeks ago he was for ending the subsidies March 31st and increasing prices as a substitute. Now he frankly admits the subsidies must be continued.

Clearly the big fight will come in congress when the matter of continuing subsidies another year after July 1st comes up. There will be strong opposition to this, as everyone familiar with the subject knows. But the first victory has been won. The Department of Agriculture has swung into line and that, in itself, is a victory of no small magnitude.

This attitude is typical of the changing sentiment with respect to the subsidies. One by one newspapers are now, even though reluctantly, admitting that there is only one way to keep living costs down and, at the same time, maintain former prices, in these abnormal times, and that is to keep the subsidies until conditions become more normal.

It is not too much to hope that congress also will see the chaos which would result were subsidies ended on July 1st.

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From The Kansas City Star, Feb. 23 -

PROBLEM OF LEVELING UP, Editorial, Rumbles now are being heard in Washington over efforts to increase the prices for farm products in view of the higher wages and prices for labor and industry. This is as logical as night following day. As long as their prices are held down by ceilings, farmers will feel entitled to adjustments in line with other sections of the national economy. The aid to the others adds to the costs of things which farmers must buy.

Today there is no great outcry from farmers themselves for higher prices, but it must be remembered that part of the farmer's income currently comes from subsidies paid from the Treasury. These subsidies, which must come from tax money, were to be eliminated June 30. President Truman has asked Congress to continue them beyond that date because food prices have not declined as had been expected with the ending of the war. If the subsidies are ended either food prices must go up or farmers must take a drastic cut in income.

Apparently the administration, which is determined to hold food prices at about the present line, sees no way of getting rid of the subsidies until prices drop on farm products. Inferentially it says the subsidy program will end when farmers get less money, while on the other hand it is approving increases in wages and prices to labor and industry. The two policies aren't going to jibe and how the administration is going to solve the dilemma is anybody's guess.

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From The Sun, March 1 -

SENATE UNIT PLANS BOOST IN FARM PAY-Washington, A move by Senate Labor Committee members to raise the wages of the millions of workers on the nation's farms was revealed today.

Senator Pepper (D., Fla.), who is spearheading the move, disclosed a plan is under way to "give farm labor direct benefits" of the committee-approved 65 cents an hour minimum wage bill without actually bringing them under its coverage.

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(For March 5, 1946)

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Washington 25, D.C.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 -

DRASTIC CURBS DUE ON ALL FEED GRAINS-Washington-A drastic new order limiting use and inventories of feed grains was today proposed by the Department of Agriculture to representatives of the grain trade and grain consumers.

The stated purpose of the order, as presented to the industry group, is "to conserve and budget the use of corn and other feed grains to promote an equitable distribution thereof and to mobilize available supplies of feed grains."

As now proposed, the regulation, which would take the form of a new WFO, would cover only old crop grains, but if the shortage is not alleviated when new crops are harvested, its provisions may be carried forward. The restrictions on grain for feed use would complement the Department of Agriculture's recently announced wheat restrictions order, and are intended to insure the fulfillment of the Government's export program.

As discussed today, the order has the following provisions: 1. Any feeder would be prohibited from purchasing or accepting delivery of grains (including wheat) in excess of the amount of grain required by him (in addition to all other grain owned or contracted for by him) to carry out his feeding operations excluding any allowance for feeding barrows and gilts for market to an average weight of more than 225 pounds, beef cattle to better than A-grade and excluding any grain for turkeys and poultry in excess of 85 per cent of the amount fed to turkeys and poultry, in 1945. Oat, barley, and wheat needs until July 15, 1946, and corn and grain sorghums needs until Oct. 15 1946, would be considered in computing feeder requirements.

Producers would be eligible to issue preference orders whenever their supply of grain on hand was insufficient to continue feeding operations for 21 days and could cover the amount needed to increase their inventory to a 30-day supply. Feeder certificates covering eligibility to purchase or accept delivery of grain and preference orders would have to be approved by the Field Service Branch county committee for the country in which the feeder carries on operations.

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PROFIT TAKING SLOWS COTTON PRICE RISE-Inspired by reports of farmers' labor co-operation to set cotton prices at 35c, futures on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday rose to new highs above 27c per pound in a churning session. Large profit-taking sales from New Orleans interests late in the session brought closing prices down to approximately Saturday's close. Prices closed 4 lower to 19 higher.

Inflationary sentiment relied in the main on the story, reported by a Washington columnist that labor under John L. Lewis would advocate 35c cotton in return for farmer support of a 30 per cent wage increase for his United Mine Workers.

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FARM STRIKE PLANS SUBJECT OF MEETING-Edgar, Neb.-The American Farmers Vigilante Committee today announced a meeting will be held March 14 at Mansfield, Ohio, at which a date may be announced for the farm strike for which the committee was organized. "A dozen corn belt States" will be represented at the Mansfield meeting, V. Hubert Johnson, Edgar, Neb., farmer and committee president, announced. It will be preceded by a committee meeting here March 11, he added.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

From The New York Journal of Commerce, March 5 -

EGGS FOR STORAGE IN HEAVY DEMAND-Receipts March 1 and 2, 65,173 pounds. Continued decided firmness in the general undercurrent of shell eggs on the basis of widespread speculative confidence. There still is very broad demand for lines of eggs, chiefly cars of Midwestern processed, suitable for storage, and prices on these in many cases still are varying above quoted rates.

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EARLY FLOUR PRICE RISE HELD UNLIKELY-Mill men here believed that the 3c advance in the wheat ceiling price would have no immediate effect on the subsidy granted for wheat ground into flour or in the flour ceilings.

However, the possibility of an eventual increase in either or both was not discounted and there was also considerable discussion regarding higher labor and other costs borne by bakers which, it was believed, might result in some price relief for their products in the near future although there was no official indication that such action might be pending.

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From The Baltimore Sun, March 5 -

POPULATION AND FAMINE ARE PROBLEMS IN INDIA-Editorial-In calling the White House emergency food conference Mr. Truman stresses the food shortages in "Europe and Asia." But while Europe's food problem is bad, there are imminent in India famine conditions of a wholly different scale of magnitude and degree of intensity. Millions in India will die before the next harvest, in a land where hunger is the daily commonplace of a quarter of the population.

But it is to be stressed that the food shortages in India and the outer world merely worsen a situation bad in the best years. There are 400,000,000 people in India. They increase at the rate of 5,000,000 a year. Burch and Pendell in their recent population study estimate that if the low death rate that prevails in the United States were to be achieved in India without disturbing the Indian birth rate of 10 to 12 per 1,000, the natural increase of Indian population would fill "more than five earths as large as ours as full as ours is today, in a single century."

India's heavy population lives on a limited area of land. It takes 2.5 acres on average to support an individual at a minimum.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 5 -

ANDERSON SEES HOOVER TODAY ON FOOD RELIEF-Washington-In a new move to speed the starvation relief program of the Famine Emergency Committee, Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, will confer at breakfast in the Mayflower hotel here tomorrow with former President Herbert Hoover, who directed European relief after World War I, and now is honorary chairman of the new committee.

Later in the day Secretary Anderson will testify on Capitol Hill on all aspects of the grain shortage and commitments the United States have to send grain to relieve starvation abroad.

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From the New York Times, March 5 -

NAVY ORDERS FOOD SAVING, Washington - Secretary Forrestal today pledged the Navy's support to the Famine Emergency Committee, established by President Truman to alleviate hunger abroad. Mr. Forrestal said the Navy would do all in its power to increase the supply of food for the relief of starving populations abroad, and reminded all ships and stations of an order he sent out last month about the necessity for food-conservation measures.

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SUBSTITUTES SUGGESTED IN ORDER TO REDUCE WHEAT CONSUMPTION - Probably everyone who read the Famine Emergency Committee's appeal, asking consumers voluntarily to cut down 25 per cent on the use of wheat, felt an instinctive desire to comply fully. Notwithstanding their wish to help in allaying hunger abroad, however, housekeepers may have been a bit puzzled as to how they should do this....

Two outstanding authorities--Miss Pauline Murrah, director of nutrition service in the North Atlantic area of the American Red Cross, and Miss Lillian Anderson, director of the nutrition bureau of the Community Service Society of New York--discussed the matter yesterday, with these conclusions:

In decreasing consumption of wheat, housewives should figure out roughly, how many servings their families regularly consume, including in the calculations crackers made from wheat flour, cookies, cakes, macaroni, breads, wheat cereals, and so on. With this total in mind, they could decide where a fourth could most conveniently be lopped off.

Providing the diets of their households are adequate, but not overabundant in calories, substitutes should be used for the foods cut out, the experts said. Nutritively speaking, a potato is a fairly good alternate for a slice of bread and a dish of oatmeal for a wheat cereal.

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NEW MILLING METHOD TO YIELD LIGHT FLOUR - A new method of milling wheat, said to yield an 80 per cent extraction flour lighter than is possible under methods now being used commercially, was announced yesterday by the Continental Baking Company. M. Lee Marshall, chairman of the board, said instructions had been sent to some of the major milling companies that would use the new method.

The new method, known as straight milling extraction, grew out of experiments begun in 1941 when it appeared that greater nutritional content of flour would be a war necessity, Mr. Marshall said.

Under the grain conservation order that went into effect last Friday, mills are prohibited from making flour of less than 80 per cent extraction. Mr. Marshall said many mills would continue making 72 per cent extraction flour and build it up to 80 per cent by restoring some of the coarser residue. He said this would have a tendency to make the flour "darker and more specky."

The new method, making use of special rollers and silk screens, will permit the milling of 80 per cent extraction flour by a continuous operation. This, according to Mr. Marshall, will result in a more uniform flour and resultant bread with better color and texture than would otherwise be possible.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Times.)

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Farm Digest 455-46-3

From the New York Times, March 5 (Cont.) -

ASKS HOUSE CONTINUE FOOD RATION POWERS, Washington - John W. Snyder, Director of Reconversion, today advised Congress to keep intact the Federal Government's power to ration scarce foods. He referred specifically to that phase of Government control in asking a judiciary subcommittee of the House to extend the Second War Powers Act a year beyond June 30.

"We have seen in the past few weeks how the food picture can change in a short time. We have been asked by the President to tighten our belts for the sake of our neighbors in other lands."

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OPA OPENS INQUIRY IN BREAD PRICE RISE - An investigation was started yesterday by the Office of Price Administration into complaints by housewives that some neighborhood bakeshops in New York City had increased the price of bread one and two cents a loaf and of cake and other products five cents or more.

Such increases, attributed by some bakers to a wage increase for their employes, are illegal, according to Leo F. Genter, regional OPA head.....

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NEW CEILINGS PUT GRAIN PRICES UP, Chicago - The upward revision last week of 3 cents a bushel in ceiling prices on cash wheat and corn, 2 cents on oats and 4 cents on barley and the new crop deliveries of rye was followed by a corresponding advance in futures on the Board of Trade today except on September and December oats, which lagged, and finished 3/8 to 5/8 cent higher on the day. Trading in wheat and corn futures broadened to some extent, but all of the business was at the new ceiling prices. The cash article also went up the permissible maximum.

May rye was up 3 1/8 cents at one time, to a new twenty-five-year high, but eased late in the session and closed 1/4 cent lower, despite further strength in the cash market. Premiums on cash rye at Minneapolis gained 1 to 3 cents on May.

The advance in ceiling prices on cash grain fails to change the general situation, brokers declared today, asserting that the rise was entirely too small to decrease feeding operations, and they expect that farm consumption, especially of coarse grains, will remain as heavy as heretofore.

It is also pointed out that the advance will not be attractive to farmers, as the new return per acre on grain harvested is very small. In the case of a twenty-bushel-per acre yield of wheat, the rise in price would be equal to only 60 cents an acre, or insufficient to stimulate farmers to put in a much larger acreage this spring.

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PRICES IN COTTON HAVE WIDE RANGE - Cotton prices moved yesterday over a fairly wide range and closed 19 points higher to 4 points lower than Saturday's final levels.

Starting 1 to 5 points higher, the market bounded into new high ground for the season and to net grains of 18 to 33 points. Early in the session there was further commission house and New Orleans support. Reports that Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson was opposed to a two-price system that would permit domestic cotton prices to fall to the world price stimulated new outside support. Later the market broke sharply on rumors that the Government, on its offer of 500,000 bales of cotton on Feb. 27, sold close to 400,000 bales, and some of the selling of futures was believed to be against this cotton.

Farm Digest 455-46-4

From The New York Times, March 3 -

REPORT FROM THE NATION-The Deep South-Schools to Improve Dairying Practices-News Notes: Farm credit agencies in Louisiana and Mississippi are operating in the belief that farm income will continue high this year. . . . Mississippi's Highway Commission started this week a \$50,000,000 building program, authorized by the Legislature. . . . Farm agents and State University extension workers are conducting a series of schools in Louisiana to improve dairying practices. . . . Meanwhile, the State Board of Health is preparing to "educate" a number of dairies which it charges are unclean but which were permitted to operate during the war because of material and labor shortages.

Midwest States-Farmers seek to Avert Danger of Future Surpluses-Omaha, Midwest farmers, while riding the crest of boom demand for their produce, believe that another distressing era of agricultural surpluses lies ahead of them.

When the new surplus era arrives, the farmer's improved "know-how" may be partly to blame for hastening its arrival. Short of help during war years, he learned to produce more food and meat per acre with modern mechanized farming methods.

Additional help is now streaming back from the armed forces. New machinery should become available in the next year or so. Hybrids and the improved seeds promise him continually growing yields per planting. This adds up to the fact that an abrupt slackening of world demand a year or two hence could catch the Midwest holding a very big sack with no place to sell it.

That does not mean the average farmer will turn slacker on urgent requests that he feed a large part of the world with 1946 crops and herds. For, in addition to being backed by Government guarantees of near-parity for the first two post-war years, he enjoys producing the safe maximum his land will yield. His hope is that some method of permitting permanent full production will be devised.

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From The Wall Street Journal, March 4 -

CUBAN SUGAR CROP ESTIMATE RAISED-Havana--Luis Mendoza & Co., sugar factor, has completed a survey of 161 sugar mills in an effort to estimate the 1946 crop. The results indicated a production of 4,840,000 short tons. The last estimate made about one month ago indicated a yield of 4.5 million short tons although other guesses on the crop range from 4.7 million short tons to 4.8 million short tons. In 1945, a crop of 3,924,243 short tons was produced.

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From Butchers' Advocate and Dressed Poultry, Feb. 20

GREATER DEMAND FOR FOODS, Editorial, No one in this country wants to see the people of Europe or Asia starve, and there should be some definite program worked out so that we will not ship more food overseas than necessary. Adversification of the items shipped out of the country is necessary. We cannot ship more beef and pork than our supply will permit. The people of America are entitled to a fair quantity of beef and pork and, therefore many other items in the food line should be carefully surveyed so that their availability is made know. We must have a fair share of our meat supply for our consumers.

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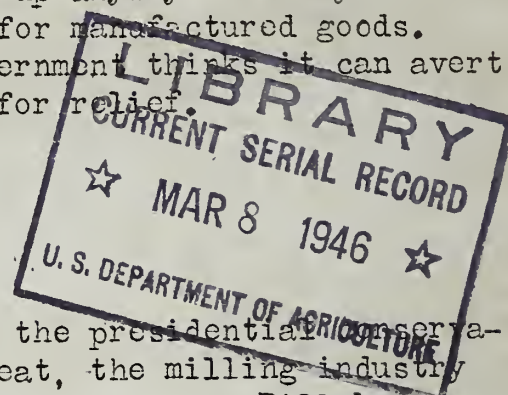
From The Wall Street Journal, March 4 -

LESS MEAT, EGGS AND MILK SEEN AS RESULT OF HIGHER GRAIN PRICES EFFECTIVE TODAY--Washington--The American consumer's portion of meat, eggs and milk will fluctuate as a result of a Government announcement increasing grain prices effective today.

Higher grain prices will mean a higher cost of feeding livestock, so there will be a quick rush of meat to market, experts think. But the long-range effect will be a smaller meat supply. . . . The egg and milk supply is deemed likely to diminish as it becomes more profitable to sell grain. . . . Officials emphasized that an increase in grain prices would have been "inevitable" by June or July at any rate. The law requires that as parity increases ceilings on farm products be kept in step.

Last year the Government adjusted grain ceiling prices at parity prices at the beginning of the crop years. At the same time it announced the Agriculture Department loan rates for these grains. The ceiling prices set at the beginning of the crop years were high enough to reflect the parity price going at that time, plus an allowance for any anticipated increase in parity during the coming crop year. Officials say the present increase brings the grain prices up to a point where they reflect both parity and the customary cushion. They add that ceiling prices would have gone up anyway at mid-year in recognition of the increasing prices farmers must pay for manufactured goods.

By advancing the date of the price hikes, the Government thinks it can avert widespread hoarding of grain and get it moving abroad for relief.



From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, Feb. 22 -

THE WHEAT ORDER, Editorial, In protesting against the presidential conservation order requiring the milling of more flour from wheat, the milling industry is speaking from experience. Philip W. Pillsbury, president of the Pillsbury Mills, says farmers will be the losers.

Experience after World War I showed that the adverse effect of dark bread lasted for ten years and hit the farmers hard. People cut down their bread consumption and never thereafter resumed their pre-World War I rate of buying of the staple. That was a contributing cause of the gigantic wheat surpluses which wrecked prices. Under-consumption can be encouraged again if consumers have no choice but to eat a type of bread they do not like.

There could be no harm in looking into the contention of several Congressmen that there is enough wheat in the world without forcing America on an unsavory diet. This country, which has been generous far beyond any instance in history, should not take a step from which it may be ten years in recovering if it is not necessary.

From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, March 1 -

SHELBY FARMERS ADD FISH TO FOOD CROPS--Some 115 Shelby County farmers will add a new crop to their food production program this year. The new crop is fish--bass, bream and crappie.

A shipment of 45,000 bream, first of a consignment of 130,000 fish to be received here this Spring, will arrive in Memphis this morning for distribution to 20 of 115 farmers who have constructed approved multiple-use farm ponds under the AAA program during the past year. Other shipments of bass and crappie are expected to arrive soon, John V. Reid, assistant county agent, said.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 6 -

HOOVER TO EXAMINE FOOD NEEDS ABROAD-Washington-Herbert Hoover with a committee of experts will go to Europe, probably next week, to investigate food conditions at the request of President Truman.

Secretary Anderson made the announcement after a breakfast conference with Mr. Hoover. He named Dr. F. R. Fitzgerald, food allocations officer of the Department, as one of the experts to accompany the former President.

Testifying later before the House Special Committee investigating food, Mr. Anderson said:

"The Department of Agriculture contends the world food shortage very real. While Mr. Hoover's findings may bring about some reduction in estimated requirement they would have to be brought down by 8,000,000 tons to reach the realm of possibility."

The United States grain supply has fallen that far below minimum export requirements for the first half of 1946, the Secretary said.

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VINSON CALLS LOAN TO BRITAIN A 'MUST'-Washington-Fred M. Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury, opened Congressional hearings on the Anglo-American Trade and Financial Agreement today by describing the proposed \$3,750,000,000 line of credit to Great Britain as "a sound investment in world peace and prosperity" which would benefit every section of this country.

Mr. Vinson called upon Congress to act "bravely and boldly" at a time which he described as a turning point in the history of mankind.

He said that the proposed credit was no gift, and "speaking as a former stabilization director and head of War Mobilization and Reconversion," he declared that the credit was not inflationary.

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TRUMAN ASKED TO AID CALIFORNIA CANNERIES-San Francisco-President Truman was requested today by California leaders of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to "take immediate steps to insure the orderly processing of the third of the country's food which is canned in California."

He was asked to intervene in a situation in which the majority of Northern California canneries are being blockaded by the Teamsters' Brotherhood, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, in a jurisdictional fight with the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers for control of some 50,000 workers.

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CUBAN SUGAR GROUP COMING-Havana-Cuba's sugar sale mission will return to the United States in the next few days, it was announced today by Dr. Oscar Seigle, its president. Members of the mission visited President Grau San Martin yesterday to receive instructions on resumption of negotiations with the United States, stalled last year when Cuba declined to accept an offer of 3.675 cents a pound for two crops.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Cont. March 6 -

FEAR ON CEILINGS DEPRESSES COTTON-Growing uneasiness over lack of news of new ceilings on cotton goods and belief that cotton consumption may drop further brought in yesterday heavier selling in the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton exchange, which closed unchanged to 9 points lower than on Monday. The market started 1 to 16 points down and dropped to net losses of 12 to 20 points on active months.

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TRADING DECLINES IN GRAIN FUTURES-Chicago-Trading in grain futures quieted down today on the Board of Trade following an upsurge yesterday when new ceiling prices became effective.

A few lots of wheat futures were sold today, but most of the business in that grain was in changing between the various deliveries at the permissible maximum price. Corn, barley, May and July oats and the distant deliveries of rye held at their ceilings. September and December oats, which represent the crop that will be harvested next summer, gained 1/8 to 3/8 cent a bushel. May rye, on which there is no ceiling, gained 7/8 cent.

Commission houses were on both sides of the rye market, with some selling at one time on a statement of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, that consumption of bread might be curtailed. The trade, however, is becoming accustomed to what is regarded as hysterical statements by Government officials regarding the food situation abroad, and little buying was required to bring a strong rally. Cash rye at Minneapolis gained 1 cent on May, closing at 19 to 25 cents premium, and went to a new seasonal high.

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50 YOUNG FRENCHMEN TO STUDY FARMS HERE-Paris-Fifty candidates from a large number of applicants will be selected in a competitive examination to form the first contingent of a group of young French farmers who will visit the United States to study American agriculture and farm methods.

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From The Baltimore Sun, March 6 -

MANCHURIAN CROP OF BEANS "STOLEN"-Washington-Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture told Congress today of reports that the Manchurian soybean crop which China needs for food has been "liberated from the area."

Anderson, testifying before a House committee, did not say whether he meant Russia had grabbed the crop. Later, when asked whether he referred to Russia, he replied, "Not primarily." He added that one of the Chinese factions might be responsible.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 6 -

1945 CIGARETTE SUPPLY PUT AT 66 DAILY PER CAPITA-Raleigh, N.C.-The manufacture of cigarettes in the United States during 1945 reached an all-time high of 335,000,000,000--an average of sixty-six each day in the year for every man, woman and child in the United States, according to W. P. Hedrick, tobacco specialist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Of the total, about 275,000,000,000 were smoked in the United States and 60,000,000,000 were shipped to men in the service overseas, Mr. Hedrick said.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 6 -

NATION-WIDE RAIL STRIKE IS CALLED, San Francisco - A progressive national strike of railroad engineers and trainment involving an estimated 300,000 workers is slated to start Monday morning, a Brotherhood official announced today. He said the strike would be fully effective within four days. The country has been divided into four groups, Peterson explained, and railroads in each group will be struck on successive days.

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WICKARD OPPOSES REGIONAL OFFICES, Buffalo, N.Y. - Claude R. Wickard, head of the Rural Electrification Administration, said today it would be "unnecessary and uneconomical for the REA to establish regional offices throughout the country."

"The REA is one of the most decentralized agencies I have known and I see no need for regional offices," he declared in an interview.

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MEMPHIS SPOTS HIT 22-YEAR HIGH, Memphis - The spot market here closed at the highest level since the early 1920's with middling 15-16 selling at 26.80. This marked a rise of 65 points over last week.

However, spots have not been following the future market in its meteoric rise. In the case of low grades, even with the rise this week in futures, low grades were selling for less. The differences on low grades were revised downward, with strict good ordinary and good ordinary weakening 125 points.

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CUBA SELLS 222,000-TONS "WORLD" QUOTA SUGAR - Practically the entire 250,000 tons of "world" sugar set-aside by Cuba has been absorbed by Latin American countries during the past two days.

At prices ranging from 6- $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ c a pound f.o.b. the sales effected were to: Mexico 100,000, Venezuela 30,000, Chile 51,000, Columbia 20,000, Panama 5,000, Costa Rica 8,000 and Honduras 8,000 tons.

That leaves an unsold balance of 28,000 tons of world quota sugar. Prices received on the sales effected at 2.825c a pound to 3.825c a pound above the price tentatively set for the sale of the bulk of the 1946 crop to the United States. This difference siphoned off by the Cuban Government for the island's social welfare program.

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OPA VALIDATES NEW SUGAR STAMP, Washington - Housewives may get a little more sugar for home canning this year than last season. OPA revealed this today in announcing that Spare Stamp No. 9 will become valid next Monday for five pounds of sugar. It will be good through Oct. 31.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from
today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 475-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 6 (Cont.) -

GOV'T RELEASING RAISINS TO TRADE - The understanding was that the Government had released from set-asides, now held by Coast packers, approximately 6,600 tons of raisins for distribution markets in this country. This understanding was that these raisins were held for eventual shipment to Canada and England.

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MARKETS - Hog receipts continued at low levels, quickly taken at ceilings...Usual Tuesday dullness in fresh vegetable market...Avocado prices weaken slightly...Live cross spring chickens slow but prices steady...Storage of eggs for season to date at record levels...Heavy butter purchases by Army...Mills restrict flour sales to actual need, with this selling policy expected to continue until backlogs are brought within inventory restrictions.

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FARM TRACTOR SHIPMENT FOR SWEDEN REPORTED - The first of a series of export shipments of Leader farm tractors is expected to leave today on the S. S. Vretaholm of the Furness, Withy Line, International Associated Industries reports.

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STEADY GAIN IN FILIPINO-U.S. TRADE - Phillippine - American trade has been expanding steadily, exporters reported yesterday, although the longshoremen strike in the first half of February set back the movement of goods temporarily.

February shipments of copra from the islands are expected to exceed 10,000 tons versus some 3,000 tons in January. Prior to the strike, it stated, a movement of 15,000 tons had been forecast.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 6 -

OFFICIALS CONCEDE LEAK ON GRAIN PRICE NEWS, Washington - Agriculture Department officials conceded yesterday that the Government's decision to increase the ceiling price on grains apparently was widely known hours before the official announcement was given to the press.

Last Saturday morning, reports circulated that an increase in ceiling prices was imminent. Some sources apparently had the actual figures, but attempts by the press to confirm these reports were unsuccessful. The statement was not given to the press until 3 p.m. Saturday....

According to the Department of Agriculture, top officials in several agencies knew at least some of the details of the coming price increase as early as Thursday afternoon. At that time there was a meeting in Economic Stabilizer Bowles' office, at which representatives of the O.P.A., R.F.C., C.E.S. and the Department of Agriculture were present.

At that meeting, a formula was agreed to which determined the price increases, but figures in terms of actual cents per bushel were not discussed. According to some officials, however, anyone having the formula could have arrived at a close approximation of the increases finally established. Department of Agriculture officials are disturbed over the leak and are endeavoring to trace it.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 3 -

GOVERNMENT COTTON STOCKS UNDER MILLION BALES?—The possibility that Government stocks of cotton may be lowered to levels under 1,000,000 bales by July 31 is discussed by W. A. Wooten, vice president in charge of the Cotton Department, First National Bank, in one of the bank's infrequent cotton letters.

"The amount of cotton which the Government has sold from its stocks so far this season and the balance now remaining unsold is the chief topic of conversation in cotton and textile circles," the review comments. "Because of its importance to everyone in the cotton industry we give below the position of this stock, based on the latest official information. . . .

"Reports are current that the Government will ship approximately 1,000,000 bales from the CCC stock to Germany and Japan during the next few months (40,000 bales are now en route to Germany). In this event, the stock would be reduced to 1,390,758 bales. Doubtless, further sales will be made from the Government stock between now and the end of the year (July 31), particularly if the futures market remains at or above present levels. It is quite possible, therefore, that by July 31 the Government stock will be reduced to 1,000,000 bales or less, as compared with over 6,000,000 bales last July 31, and a peak stock of over 11,000,000 bales in 1939."

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From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 3 -

DECLINING RURAL HEALTH, Editorial, Formerly rural areas held important health advantages over urban centers. Purer air, more exposure to sunshine, fresher foods, more wholesome physical activities and greater regularity in living habits contributed to making country people more healthy than city-dwellers.

That is no longer true. Whether it is due mainly to improving health conditions in urban areas or to a decline in rural sections, the relative positions have changed. It is probably partly due to both. In a report on rural health conditions, the Department of Agriculture says the ranks of country doctors are not being adequately replenished by young, well trained graduates of medical and dental schools.

Farm youth showed up considerably higher rejection rates in the draft than the average, and this was the opposite of the situation in World War I, which is striking evidence that the health of rural youth is "relatively going down hill."

The Department suggests that rural communities might attract doctors and dentists returning from the war by offering them good homes, providing technical equipment and guaranteeing a minimum income for the first year.

The idea is worth considering.

From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 3-

IOWA FARMERS TO NEED MORE CAPITAL, RATHER THAN LABOR, TO INCREASE TOTAL OUTPUT—Ames, Ia.—More capital, rather than more labor, must be used on Iowa farms in the years ahead if total output is to be increased.

This is the conclusion of Earl O. Heady, Iowa State College farm economist, in an article written for the current issue of the Iowa Farm Economist. His study deals with the years of normal production rather than the present in which the labor supply is less than can be profitably employed.

The additional capital should be invested in labor saving machinery; equipment and livestock for improved livestock production; and investments in fertilizer and conservation practices for crop production, he says.

From The New York Times, March 3 -

PRICES AND PRODUCTION, Editorial, Critics of price control have emphasized that it acts as a barrier to production. Mr. Bowles dealt with this subject in his recent testimony before the House Banking and Currency Committee. He concluded that "the record clearly proves that this is nonsense." To support this conclusion he emphasized the large wartime increase in industrial and agricultural production and also the large volume of employment and production currently.

It is true, as Mr. Bowles pointed out that there was a large increase in production during the war. It is well known, and has been frequently pointed out by OPA, however, that the price laws made it impossible for OPA to fix agricultural prices until they had risen substantially to relatively high levels. Then, when even some of these prices proved to be inadequate, food subsidy programs aggregating almost \$2,000,000,000 annually had to be authorized in order to obtain the desired output.

One of the major difficulties in dealing with the relationship between production and price is the tendency to emphasize total production rather than the production of designated products or of individual producers. Although total production may rise to a relatively favorable level, it does not follow that the production of particular items will not be held back. We must shift our emphasis from aggregates to marginal output, or to the output of specific things. It is the latter which may be most adversely affected by price control.

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From The New York Times, March 3 -

PART-TIME FARMING, Editorial, Surveys among returned veterans indicate a strong interest in part-time farms located on the main roads radiating from the centers of population. Between the two world wars the movement toward this way of living gained strong momentum. Following the depression years many families moved to small-acreage farms. Since 1942 the interest in semi-rural real estate has steadily increased. On a nation-wide basis real estate agents report many sales of small farms to families intending to combine city work with country living.

The movement represents a new frontier on the American scene. Both economically and socially it represents a trend that has now assumed a definite place in the total economy. It is a part of the never-ceasing search for economic security that has particularly distinguished the last decade and a half. A small farm represents housing at moderate cost; in times of economic stress it is an assurance of a major part of the food supply.

Governmental and private agencies are encouraging the trend toward decentralization of population. Big business firms are making a start toward the decentralization of business. More and more it will be possible for workers to combine country living with vocations in factories and shops. It seems certain that part-time farming combined with a trade, service job, or profession will grow more important in the post-war years.

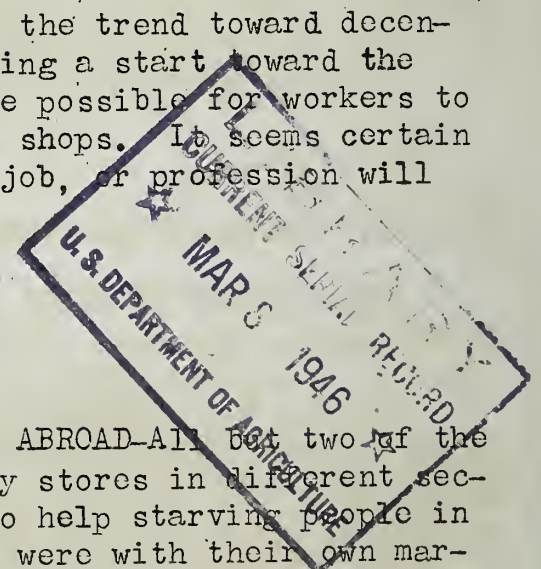
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From New York Herald Tribune, March 3 -

18 OF 20 WOMEN AGREE AMERICA SHOULD FEED STARVING ABROAD-All but two of the twenty women questioned last Wednesday in three grocery stores in different sections of the city agreed "we ought to do what we can to help starving people in other countries." But they admitted, absorbed as they were with their own marketing problems, that they had given little thought to how they themselves could save wheat products.

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Farm Digest 475-46-6



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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 7 -

'FOOD AND FAMINE' THEME AT CAPITAL; BIG SUBSIDY URGED-Washington-The Earl of Halifax, British Ambassador, saw Secretary Byrnes today with the expressed intention of discussing "food and famine--a grim subject" as forerunner to a visit from Sir Ben Smith, British Food Minister, who is expected here immediately.

The same subject, "food and famine," prompted moves on Capitol Hill. The Administration, through James F. Brownlee, deputy to Chester Bowles, Economic Stabilization Director, asked the House Banking and Currency Committee to approve \$2,051,000,000 subsidy program including rollbacks on foods for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Brownlee called this program "necessary to hold back a whirl of inflation." He warned that sudden stoppage of subsidies would result in an 8 per cent rise in food costs and a $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent increase in the over-all cost of living. The subsidy program of the present fiscal year will total \$2,084,000,000, he said.

Simultaneously, a group of more than a hundred Democrats and Republicans conferred in the House caucus room to organize a committee to revise the price control law, with Representative Hartley of New Jersey as acting chairman.

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OBJECTOR TESTS AID FAMINE TREATMENT-Chicago-Evidence based on the experimental starvation of thirty-six conscientious objectors who volunteered as human guinea pigs in tests at the University of Minnesota indicate that it will take a year at least to restore to normal health the famine-ridden populations in war-torn areas of the world, Dr. Ancil Keys, director of the school's physiology laboratory, predicted today. He spoke at the Chicago Medical Society's Clinical Conference.

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ASKS BRITISH LOAN TO AVOID 'DOGFIGHT'-Washington-William L. Clayton, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee today that an "economic dogfight" with Great Britain was the alternative to the proposed \$3,750,000,000 credit and would cost us "far more than the investment we now propose to make in order to avoid it."

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HARVESTER SHOWS DECLINE IN INCOME-Chicago-The International Harvester Company's annual report covering the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, discussed today expansion and modernization plans involving estimates expenditures of \$145,000,000, reported reduced net income for the fourth consecutive year and disclosed lower sales, with the trend continuing into the current fiscal year.

CEILINGS, MARGINS FRIGHTEN COTTON-Prices of cotton futures dived yesterday to net losses of 25 to 43 points on the New York Cotton Exchange. Talk of placing ceilings on new crop cotton and placing 60 per cent margin requirements on speculative accounts, brought in heavy liquidation. It is believed ceilings cannot be placed on the new crop, which will begin to move about Aug. 1. Presidents of the cotton exchanges were called to Washington to meet Chester Bowles, Economic Stabilization Director, today. The purpose of the meeting was said to be to discuss uniform margins for speculative accounts.

(Turn to page 2 for other items - - - -
in today's N.Y. Times.)

From The New York Times, Cont., March 7 -

RYE AND OATS DROP IN GRAIN MARKETS-Chicago-Weakness that developed in the cotton markets spread quickly to the grain markets on the Board of Trade today, with May rye dropped the permissible limit of 5 cents a bushel. The active deliveries of oats closed with losses of 7/8 to 1 3/8 cents, and July was below the ceiling level for the first time in about a month.

The close was about the bottom on oats, while the old-crop deliveries of rye here and in Minneapolis and Winnipeg were at the permissible minimum at the finish. No changes were made in wheat, corn, barley, May oats and the deferred deliveries of rye.

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PUTS SILK REVIVAL UP TO JAPANESE-With the return of raw silk to the American market, efforts to promote its use and strengthen its competitive position, greatly weakened during the war, must come from the Japanese themselves, it was pointed out yesterday by D. E. Douty, president of the United States Testing Co.

The Japanese must undertake as early as possible a thorough engineering study of the entire silk industry to improve the quality of their product, Mr. Douty said. It has been recommended that they seek the services of outstanding industrial engineers, either those in Japan or from foreign countries, and that the Japanese Government support such a move.

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TIGHTENS CC RATING FOR SHIRTS, SHORTS-Washington-The Civilian Production Administration tightened its preference rating system for cotton textiles today in an effort to assure the use of approximately 15,000,000 yards of cotton fabrics in the manufacture of men's and boys' shirts and shorts, for which the material was initially intended.

To prevent their use for less essential needs, the agency ruled that, beginning immediately, CC rates orders under Order M-328 B for corded broadcloth and carded poplins will be valid only if the material is to go into the desired items.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 7 -

NAMM SAYS GOODS EXHIBIT WILL BE REPLY TO BOWLES-Charges made by Chester Bowles, Economic Stabilizer, that the National Retail Dry Goods Association is among "the most irresponsible reckless, greedy organizations," will be answered by a merchandise exhibit next Tuesday in Room 213 of the old House Office Bldg., in Washington, according to Major Benjamin H. Namm, president of the N.R.D.G.A.

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From The Kansas City Star, March 4 -

HOME FOOD SPUR-Kansas City is looked to by President Truman to go farther toward feeding itself from home gardens this summer than it did in any of the war years. The President appealed to Mayor Gage by telegraph today to stir up again the Victory garden spirit.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 7 -

HIGH COTTON MARGIN SEEN - Senator Bankhead, dean of the Congressional "cotton bloc," declared the Government was moving to prevent the price of cotton from rising beyond 27 cents a pound by increasing the margins required in futures trading to 60%. Margins vary now, but the highest rate is less than 20%. Margins of 60% would limit trading to the "big operators," the Senator said. Not many cotton mills would be able to buy cotton futures if such margins were set, he contended.

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JANUARY CIGARETTE SALES TO CIVILIANS AT NEW HIGH FOR THE MONTH - More cigarettes were shipped by manufacturers for the civilian market in January of this year than in any previous January.

Tax-paid withdrawals in that month totaled 25,225,794,587 units, 25.65% above the 20,077,022,443 produced in the like month a year ago, according to figures released by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The previous January high was the 20.3 billion turned out for domestic consumption in 1943. The peacetime January high was recorded in 1941 at 16.2 billion units.

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FLOUR BOOKINGS DROP, Kansas City - Flour bookings by southwestern mills last week dropped to only 9% of capacity, against 108% a year ago, the Northwestern Miller reports. Only scattered bookings of 80% extraction flour were included in the computation, but more buying would have been done had mills been willing to accept new orders. Unfilled orders in most instances greatly exceeded millers' wheat stocks.

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FEDERAL REGULATIONS HIT COCONUT OIL BUYING AT U. S. SUPPLY EXPANDS - Government restrictions are preventing manufacturers from buying urgently needed coconut oil despite the fact that supplies of the raw material are mounting daily. Makers of soap may not use more than 74% to 84% of their 1940-41 consumption. They have completed buying of first quarter needs on this basis, and must not stand aside while supplies accumulate.

Manufacturers of oleomargarine, pressing to relieve the butter shortage, prefer coconut oil for an ingredient, but have to get special permission from the Government to use it. The Government won't give it, would rather have the industry use cottonseed, soybean or peanut oils.

Stocks of coconut oil in the United States, meanwhile, are expanding. More than 133.7 million pounds were on hand last November 30, compared with less than 94.2 million a year previous. More than 50 million pounds are believed to have been processed in this country from imported copra since November 30.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 7 -

NEW GUM CROPS TO MOVE EARLY, Savannah, Ga. - Highly favorable production weather is expected to bring an early movement of the new crop of gum naval stores. In various sections of the producing territory there are reports of some new crop gum moving to market. As yet, this movement is not large, but it is an indication that the crop will be early this season.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 485-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 7 -

'46 SALMON PACK OUTLOOK BETTER - Announcement yesterday by the Department of the Interior that there would be no major changes in Alaska salmon fishing regulations this season was hailed in canned foods circles as removing the last barrier to preparations for capacity packing operations during 1946.

A recently proposed regulation by the department which would have limited the number of fish traps operated by an individual or company, had come in for sharp protest from Alaska canners. In a number of instances, canners indicated, plants would not be operated during 1946 because of their inability to assure themselves of fish supplies adequate for operations.

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SOME FARINA OUTPUT MAY BE PERMITTED - It was reported in the trade yesterday that the Government may permit millers to produce up to 5 per cent of farina but official confirmation was not yet available.

Under the 80 per cent extraction regulation the manufacture of farina was automatically shut off and as this was widely used for baby foods, among other uses, it clearly came under the hardship clause contained in the conservation order. However, it was believed that if permission is granted many mills will be unable to produce it due to the increasing difficulty in obtaining wheat.

The wheat supply outlook is now the major problem confronting all mills and predictions were being made that unless there is a substantial upsurge in the volume of country selling of that grain there will be many shutdowns before the end of the present crop season.

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CEREAL PRODUCTS - The corn meal situation remained extremely tight and there was considerable criticism in trade circles of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's statement that the American public may be called upon to eat more corn meal as a substitute for wheat.

Marketings of corn for all industries have been far below requirements for the past several months due, in large measure, to an inequitable corn-hog price ration which made it more profitable to feed corn, and recent official moves have offered little hope that there might be an early improvement in supplies available to industrial users. In fact, fears were freely voiced that with the ploughing and seeding season getting under way there will be a drop in corn marketings.

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MONTREAL HANDLES HUGE GRAIN VOLUME - Traffic in Canadian harbors increased during 1945, with volume of grain handled at Montreal the largest in any year since 1928, the National Harbors Board has announced, according to Canadian Information Service.

Montreal grain shipments handled by elevators operated by the board or privately operated in harbors under the board totaled 118,361,000 bushels, compared with 36,149,000 the previous year.

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From The Kansas City Star, March 3 -

NEED A FARM PLAN-Comparatively little public attention has been directed to the development of a comprehensive peacetime farm program. Agriculture appears to be at the crossroads. And now is the time to give serious consideration to new proposals which might prove more satisfactory in the prevention and cure of the farmer's ills.

This thesis was emphasized last week in a study by the Federal Reserve bank of Minneapolis. Such a discussion now has increased value in light of Secretary Anderson's testimony before the House appropriations committee last week to the effect that the Department of Agriculture is dissatisfied with the present parity basis for farm prices and is seeking a more flexible price floor system.

Given first mention by the Minneapolis bank as a possible parity substitute was the plan of forward pricing, a program receiving much favorable attention from economists of late. This proposal is designed to continue the present price support program while divorcing it from parity relationships.

An impartial board, according to the plan, would set a forward floor price on farm products extending ahead for one production period. These price figures naturally would reflect prospective supply and demand factors on a world as well as a domestic basis.

Such a system would, it is contended, give the farmer a guaranteed minimum price for his crops, thus enabling him to plan his production more profitably.

A second big advantage of the plan cited by the Minneapolis bank is that it could be used to guide production. Forward pricing would also eliminate the inflexibility of the present parity farm price schedule. The last, and perhaps the most attractive, advantage to many agricultural interests would be the elimination of all production controls with their multitude of administrative difficulties.

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From Butchers' Advocate, Feb. 20 -

CATTLE SERIOUS PROBLEM, Editorial, Cattle still are a serious problem to slaughterers because they find it most difficult to operate in compliance with OPA regulations. It is most difficult for the legitimate slaughterer to compete with the black marketeers in the live markets. Quantities of beef cattle are being bought in Chicago and Omaha markets by order buyers for eastern slaughterers at prices so high that it would be impossible for the killer of these cattle to live within the OPA price regulation. It is reported that some of the slaughterers are not applying to the R.F.C. Defense Supplies Division for their subsidies because they are so far over-board that they would be in non-compliance. The OPA must either change this cattle regulation or strictly enforce it so that the black marketeers will be forced out of business. Legitimate meat packers are entitled to a square deal and protection. They are not getting this from OPA. We all know that the Order as now written is most difficult to comply with, but the only way compliance can be obtained is through the enforcement group in OPA.

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From The Kansas City Star, March 3 -

CLEAN THE PLATES NOW-Housewives here, schooled in food economy during the war rationing, believe that little is wasted around their family tables, according to a survey yesterday. The government-sponsored Eat Less Food campaign to help the hungry abroad will mean just that -- eat less, they say.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce - March 4 -

STABILIZER BOWLES WARMS OVER ANOTHER ECONOMIC ILLUSION-By Wilbur J. Brons - Economic Stabilizer Bowles commented last week that it was only "with the greatest reluctance" that he consented to a rise in the price of meat.

"Above everything else," he said, "food prices must be firmly held, and to the extent necessary to accomplish this, subsidies should be provided. If it had not been for the various commitments made before the issuance of the new wage-price policy, I would have appealed vigorously to Congress for additional subsidy money to eliminate any need for a retail price increase, no matter how small it might be." Mr. Bowles' opinion of how the public can be spared the necessity of paying higher prices for meat arising from the government's wage policy is in keeping with most of his economic notions. He seems to have convinced himself that when a price line is "held" by paying a subsidy as a partial offset to wage increases, there has been no increase in the nation's living costs.

Subsidies for anything simply mean that a portion of the increased cost of production is passed on to the taxpayers. If the subsidy is not offset by increased tax rates, or a widening of the existing tax base, it has to be met by an increase in the federal deficit.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 1 -

SPECULATORS CONTROL COTTON FUTURES TRADE-Among cotton men, who use the futures markets as a safeguard against business hazards, the upward, speculative trend of these markets is most disconcerting.

The value of spot cotton has failed to keep pace with the futures market, with the result that normal trading practices have had to be revised to meet the situation. It was only yesterday that the quoted prices on the Memphis market were changed to reflect the growing differences between the futures and the spots markets.

Speculation is playing a large part in the advance and the speculation is coming from sources outside the trade. The inactivity in the grain market has focused attention on cotton, and the cash regulations on stocks has shifted the attention of speculators in that market to cotton futures.

The manner in which the market reacts is a reflection of the speculative trend. When a minor speculative interest was involved, price fixing by mills and hedges by cotton merchants constituted a large part of the market. Today it is only incidental. The speculators are slowly driving the legitimate trade from the markets and soon may have them to themselves.

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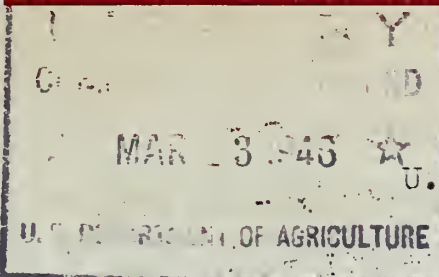
From San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 28 -

THE FOOD CONFERENCE, Editorial, President Truman does well to call former President Herbert Hoover to his food conference. No man on earth is better informed on or has had more experience with the husbanding of food supplies and their management on the international scale. At a glance it is seen that the other individuals invited to the conference at the White House Friday have been chosen as key persons in fields to be specially useful in the proposed drive to increase the amount of American food available for the critical needs of Europe and Asia. Mr. Hoover, however, is the overall, the global expert. If he is willing and his strength will permit, he should be put in charge of this food drive.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For March 8, 1946)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington, 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 8 -

FOOD INDUSTRY TO AID CAMPAIGN-Washington-Pledges of cooperation in the campaign to conserve foodstuffs for shipments to shortage areas abroad were given by food manufacturers and food distributors at a meeting with Agricultural Department officials today. In addition, the food trade representatives offered suggestions for submission to the Famine Emergency Commission meeting next week.

The food industry representatives urged that emphasis be put on "avoiding food waste and saving lives" rather than an "eat less" program. The latter they regarded as of negative value.

They suggested that the campaign be conducted over a definite period so that the public would be fully advised as to the foodstuffs which were in abundant supply as well as about those where shortages existed.

The campaign, they said, should end around June 30, with public agencies and private interests combining to present facts and suggestions to consumers. The group set great store on a proposal that the public be encouraged to substitute such plentiful products as potatoes, fish, poultry, eggs, citrus fruits and seasonable vegetables for the wheat, fats and oils needed for export to areas threatened with famine.

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CORN BUYERS USE NYLONS TO INDUCE FARMERS TO SELL-Washington-Congress learned today that in one Corn Belt area nylon stockings were distributed to farmers' daughters to induce their fathers to sell some corn.

Clinton P. Anderson, Agriculture Secretary, informed the House Banking and Currency Committee of the incident in telling that most grain for hog and cattle feed was "changing hands in the black market or in other unorthodox ways."

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BARS COTTON-YARN HOARDING-Washington-The Civilian Production Administration today tightened inventory controls on cotton yarns, an item in short supply, in a further effort to check hoarding or pre-emptive buying of scarce materials.

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UNDERTONE HEAVY ON GRAIN MARKETS-Chicago-Grain markets showed a heavy undertone today on the Board of Trade, with September and December wheat and rye selling below ceiling prices for the first time in six weeks, and September oats at one time showed $4\frac{3}{4}$ cents a bushel under the permissible maximum. Aggressive buying of the deferred deliveries of the various grains was less than it had been recently, and brokers expressed the belief that the situation gradually was easing.

Corn and barley and the distant deliveries of rye closed unchanged, the latter rallying after being $3/8$ cent under the ceiling at one time. July rye in Winnipeg closed 5 cents, the limit, lower.
(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, March 8 Cont. -

PRICES FOR COTTON RISE 9 TO 22 POINTS-Cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange were nervous yesterday and fluctuated readily, reflecting uncertainties regarding ceilings and margins, but final prices were 9 to 22 points higher than they were the day before.

It was reported in the cotton trade that cotton mills have brought pressure on OPA to stabilize the price of cotton around 27c a pound for spot cotton so that if OPA fixes the goods ceilings based on this price for spot cotton, mills will be assured of a margin of profit. On the other hand, it is contended in the trade that a prohibitive margin requirement would destroy the internal economy of the Exchange inasmuch as the hedge sales of merchants are usually absorbed by speculation.

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EXTENSION OF PRICE CONTROLS RELUCTANTLY URGED ON HOUSE-Washington-The House Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning recommended "reluctantly" but firmly today that the Price Control Act, with several liberalizing amendments, be continued until June 30, 1947, as an essential part of the Government's program for combating inflation.

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TRUMAN TO AVERT MONDAY RAIL STRIKE BY MEDIATION ACT-Washington-The threat of a railroad strike on Monday faded away today as President Truman prepared to invoke the fact-finding machinery in that industry which he proposes for others.

The White House announced that the President would appoint a fact-finding panel in the rail wage dispute "very shortly." Under the Railway Mediation Act this will automatically bar a strike for 30 to 60 days.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 8 -

CHURCH COUNCIL BACKS PLAN TO CONSERVE FOOD-Columbus, Ohio-The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in Americas in today's closing session of its three-day special meeting on the church's responsibility toward post-war problems, unanimously indorsed national food conservation and voted an all-out program to save food in American homes for the next six months, to help starving people in war-devastated lands.

More than 500 delegates of Protestant denominations voted this morning to back up President Truman's appeal to the churches.

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WOOLEN SUPPLY IS SEEN AT PEAK FOR PEACE TIME-The American public during 1946 will be provided with more yards of woollens and worsteds than have ever been produced in this country in any peace-time year, the American Wool Council declared yesterday, following a survey of current production and military and foreign requirements.

The output of the industry now is running at the rate of 425,000,000 yards a year, a volume which gives promise of increasing as labor conditions improve, according to the council.

Shortage of men's clothing, the council says, is attributed by manufacturers largely to distortions in production and distribution forces upon the industry by the maximum average price order of the Office of Price Administration.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 8 -

EXPORTS OF FLOUR RESTRICTED BY U.S. - The Department of Agriculture, in a surprise move yesterday, announced that it would not grant March export licenses on flour to many countries, and millmen contacted The Journal of Commerce stated that they had been unable to definitely ascertain the motive for this move.

In view of the almost daily statements by various Government spokesmen stressing the huge needs abroad and the necessity for curtailing consumption at home in order to step up exports as much as possible it had been expected that few, if any, obstacles would be placed in the way of exports to needy countries.

One reason advanced was that the countries being denied licenses had sufficient supplies on hand for their immediate needs but a study of the list gave this little substantiation.

Countries to be denied flour for this month, at least, according to information reaching milling interests here, are Denmark, Greece, India, Italy, England, Holland, Netherlands West Indies, Norway, Portugal and Spain and their possessions; Sweden, Belgium, China, Brazil, Madagascar, Middle East States, Tangier, Belgian Congo, British West Africa, and the Philippines.

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GRAIN EXPORT PROGRAM RAPIDLY BEING MET, Washington - Increasing rail movements of grain indicate the Office of Defense Transportation said today, that the export grain program for those ports is being met. In January the five railroads terminating in Portland and Seattle move 4,651 cars of bulk grain and 6,993 cars in February. This compares with total grain movements of 31,329 cars by the same roads to the same destinations in the calendar year 1944; and 38,593 in 1945.

This shows, the ODT said, that the ICC order to move box cars into Oregon, Washington, Northern Idaho and Western Montana to move export wheat was showing results. The export movement in this region was programmed at about 8,000,000 bushels a month for the next three months. At the February rate there would be roughly about eleven and a half million bushels move to these ports which would meet the export program and also furnish the millers and processors in the northwest a supply of grain to meet their flour, feed and grain products needs.

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RAW COTTON PRICE LIMIT REACHED, BOWLES ASSERTS, Washington - Raw cotton prices have now reached the limit to which the economic high command is willing to let them go without taking steps to prevent prices from rising still further.

This was told to representatives of the New York, New Orleans and Chicago Cotton exchanges today by Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles who indirectly indicated that the price of raw cotton cannot exceed 27c a pound for spot cotton without causing serious trouble to the cotton fabric and apparel programs of the Government.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 8 (Cont.) -

MARKETS - Fowl weak in live poultry market... Apples hold steady despite increased receipts... Fresh vegetable demand centering largely on top qualities... Olive oil importers of record advised to take necessary steps to participate in importation of Greek olive oil... First imports of Turkish shelled filberts since beginning of war reported in... Dried fruit traders get allotments of raisins released from set-asides previously held for export to Britian, Canada.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 8 -

GENERAL FOODS PUTS \$17 MILLION IN RESERVE - General Foods Corp. has set aside more than \$17 million for plant construction, modernization, and equipment, it was disclosed in the annual report for 1945.

In addition, engineers are working on plans for a substantial amount of construction, which, the report states, will put G.F. "in a strong position to meet the increasing competition."

Because of shortages of important materials, General Foods' operations have not yet returned to normal.

"Sugar, for example, is likely to be restricted until the end of the year," the report says. "Little coconut from the Philippines can be expected until late 1946, or early 1947, and probably no tapioca from Java until 1947."

Tin for packaging will continue short until the mines of Southeast Asia resume output approaching pre-war rates, the report adds.

Profit margins last year, the report states, were lower, reflecting higher costs and ceiling prices. Record expenditures on research in 1945 are expected to result in new and improved products and manufacturing processes.

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DISPUTE OVER CUBAN SUGAR SALES OUTSIDE U.S. DELAYS CROP TALKS, Washington- Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said that negotiations to purchase the 1946 Cuban sugar crop nearly are completed. There is no dispute on prices, Mr. Anderson told the House Banking Committee. The only point of disagreement, he said, is on how much of the crop Cuba should be allowed to retain for domestic uses and sell to other markets.

The Secretary said the U. S. position is that a minimum amount should be retained in Cuba. He said the U. S. regards as unfair the shipments of Cuban sugar to other countries. The price offered by the Department of Agriculture for the 1946 Cuban sugar crop is \$3.675 per 100 pounds.

Cuba is reported wanting to retain 500,000 tons of sugar for sale on the free world market at prices considerably above what is being offered by this country. The U. S. position is that Cuba be allowed to retain 200,000 tons.

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OFFICIALS ASK COTTON EXCHANGES TO INCREASE MARGIN REQUIREMENTS, Washington- The Government yesterday sought to curb further speculative price increases in cotton by asking representatives of the three large cotton exchanges to boost margin requirements in future trading. This proposal was made to officials of the New York Cotton Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade and the New Orleans Cotton Exchange at a meeting called by Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles yesterday.

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From The Creamery Journal, March, 1946 -

WILL APPRECIATE COOPERATION, Editorial, Months ago officials of the Federal Food and Drug Administration began warning the dairy industry that when the war was over it could be expected more stringent requirements would be imposed in regard to sanitary conditions within dairy plants and also with reference to quality of the raw product.

Such a policy on the part of F & D is sound as there was much that needed to be done in order to merely regain ground lost during the war. It is also a sound policy so far as continuing quality improvement of milk and cream products is concerned.

The F & D administration has for years had the respect of the dairy industry, not because of its strict and letter-of-the-law policies but because of its fairness and its willingness to go along with units of the dairy industry in matters where time and cooperation would obviously achieve the best results. We believe that if the greatest future results in progress are going to be assured by the F & D people they must not depart from the attitude exhibited in past years.

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From The Creamery Journal, March 1946 -

OPINIONS MAY VARY, Editorial, The National Farmer's Union has decided to make Chester Bowles, now ex-OPA Administrator, the recipient of its newly created award "for most outstanding service to agriculture in 1945." James C. Patton, national Union president, reported the award was decided upon by the board of directors because of Bowles' "courageous stand against inflation."

There will be plenty of people who will question the soundness or the accuracy of the decision of the Union's board of director. If we are not mistaken the Farmers Union is the organization which in past years has talked of fixing farm commodity prices at levels that would guarantee cost of production to all farmers, an obvious impossibility, but if attempted would put the cost of many commodities out of reach of anyone except the wealthy class of people.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 4 -

BONUS FOR HEAVY EATING, Editorial, Every month the government pays \$5 of the average family's grocery bill. The remittance isn't made to the housewife or the grocer, but the payment is made just the same. The way it works is that the treasury sends some money to the flour millers and directs them to credit enough on every barrel of flour to reduce the price of a loaf of bread by a penny. The sugar people get their checks so that the consumer saves a cent a pound. The dairy people get a contribution of about a cent for each quart of milk. Other payments on behalf of each family are made for meat, cheese, and some other things.

The government calls these subsidy payments. At the end of a year they amount to about 2 billion dollars. That would average \$60 a family or \$5 a month. To get one's full share it is necessary to eat just the things the government helps to pay for.

Selling food below cost has had consequences that could have been foreseen. Despite record production in 1945, supplies are so much reduced that the President is organizing a "famine emergency committee," whose object is to get people to eat less and waste less.

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From The Boston Herald, March 6 -

SERIOUS FOOD CRISIS IF TRAINS STOP-Ten thousand New England railroad men have been ordered to join Monday and Tuesday in a nationwide rail strike, which would shut off railroad transportation here and throughout the country completely. It will immediately bring on New England the most serious food crisis in years.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 5 -

GREAT PART OF COTTON BEING SALVAGED FROM FIELDS-With good weather field hands have moved through rows of cotton, the gin yards have been filled with wagons and trucks and trailers and the gin machinery, in some instances, has been kept humming far into the night. Bales of cotton have been rolled out to the gin platforms or trucked to waiting boxcars. The cotton no longer was white, but gray or blue or yellow. Much was stained with dirt. The field hands were not picking the cotton, but were snapping it bolls and all, and in most instances the outturn at the gins was a far cry from bright, clean cotton.

There is no way of telling how many millions of dollars the past few days of good weather have brought to the MidSouth. Just as most farmers were about to abandon their crop and perhaps begin work of planting another, the weather broke and the farm operations were swung into getting the cotton out of the fields.

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From Wallaces' Farmer, March 2 -

HOW TO LOSE YOUR SHIRT, Editorial, Veterans got a bad deal in the revision of the GI law. Last year, a veteran buying a farm received some good advice and direction from a committee of local farmers.

Now, it looks as if a hopeful veteran could be talked into paying too high a price for a farm, without anybody to protect him.

The lender (protected by the \$4,000 guarantee) can afford to lend more than the farm is really worth. And nobody, under the present plan, can step in to prevent the deal being made. Under the old plan, the farmers' committee had to approve the loan.

The lending agency is protected. Uncle Sam's \$4,000 isn't protected. And the veteran isn't protected. The only way to repair the damage, under the present law, is for the Veterans Administration to insist that a land bank appraisal be made on the basis of 30-year average prices. Farm committees in the corn belt have so far kept veterans from losing their shirts in buying farms. That kind of protection should be put back in force.

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From Wallaces' Farmer, March 2 -

EUROPE WILL NEED LESS FOOD NEXT YEAR, Editorial, All this talk about Europe starving is true enough. But don't let it fool you about the longer future.

Europe is going to be mighty hungry thru to the next harvest. But if their farmers are able to secure enough feed to keep livestock going, and if the 1946 crops are fair, the worst should be over by next fall.

Some folks seem to think Europe will be eating American food from now on. That isn't so. The export of food from the United States to Europe will fall off sharply just as soon as European farms get to producing again.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at y212.)

From The New York Times, March 11 -

BOWLES GIVES REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT PRICE POLICY: SEES VAST 'FLOOD OF GOODS'-Washington-With phrases of unbounded optimism, Chester Bowles, Director of Economic Stabilization, presented today "a blueprint" of President Truman's "bulge-in-the-line" wage-price policy, which he said would open the gates for "the greatest flood of goods this great nation has ever seen."

Addressing himself, in a general summation of the price-control situation to John Smith and his average American family, to industry, to the individual worker, and to the farmer, Mr. Bowles sketched today a wide vista of enduring prosperity with good profits for industry and farmers and good jobs for anyone willing to work. The only obstacles he saw in the way, he said, were psychological.

"Our progress toward that goal is being delayed by fear and doubt and blind self-interest," he declared. "Those are the bottlenecks we must break."

The new policy, said Mr. Bowles, would not work automatically. He said that everybody, including the farmer, must want to make it work even at the cost of "a little sacrifice."

Mr. Bowles also asked Congress for support, especially for an extension of the Emergency Price Control Act, but he did not specify for how long after June 30 it should be continued. He told Government agencies that they must give business men, farmers and workers fair and quick decisions on problems that would arise under the plan.

OPA ORDER REVISES PRICES ON MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS-Washington-The Office of Price Administration acted today to increase the flow of men's suits, currently trickling into the retail market, by issuing a new order revising the prices on men's and boy's tailored clothing.

The effect of the revised pricing regulation, officials believed, would be to break the log-jam in male woolen and worsted garments caused by the acknowledged withholding of suits by manufacturers in anticipation of higher prices and also to stimulate the production of low and medium priced apparel.

MAY 1 IS DEADLINE FOR FOOD TO JAPAN-Tokyo-May 1 has been set as the absolute deadline before which substantial food imports must arrive. Maj. W. H. Leonard, chief of the agriculture division of Allied Headquarters' natural resources section, when interviewed, declared that there was no danger of starvation before then, but thereafter there will be no dodging the issue that Japan will be virtually without food.

SOUTH AFRICA AWAITS U. S. REPLY ON WHEAT SOUGHT IN APPEAL FROM SMUTS TO TRUMAN-Capetown-South Africa awaits President Truman's reply to Premier Jan Christiaan Smuts' personal appeal for his intercession with the Combined Food Board regarding South Africa's application for 232,000 long tons of wheat. South Africa's food problem is complicated by the diversity of races in the Union, each with its own food traditions.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

From The New York Times, March 11 (Cont.) -

UNRRA SHIPMENTS ROSE LAST MONTH-Washington-Accelerated shipments stepped up the movement of United Nations Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Administration supplies abroad to 1,239,000 long tons in February, a monthly record, but Herbert H. Lehman, director general, in making the report, asserted that the figure reflected no relief in the critical shortage of food in liberated areas.

He said there had been a sharp drop in the ratio of food to the total tonnage-a ratio which he said had previously provided nearly 3 tons of food for every ton of other supplies.

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COTTON FLUCTUATES IN WEEK'S TRADING-Cotton prices in the domestic market fluctuated irregularly last week. After establishing new seasonal highs in the early dealings, prices registered a sharp drop, but recovered most of the decline in final dealings. At the close on Saturday, active futures contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange showed net losses for the week of 11 to 21 points, except the spot months, which was up 4 points.

The early advance of the market into new high ground was attributed to buying stimulated by general inflationary forces, opposition of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson to proposals that domestic cotton prices be allowed to decline to world levels, in order to encourage increased exports of the staple, and by firmness in the securities market.

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DIP IN HOG RECEIPTS SLOWS LARD TRADING-Chicago-Smaller receipts of hogs, combined with talk of increased Government set aside orders for lard and pork and failure of the anticipated announcement of the new ceiling price in hog products to cover the recently granted wage increases at packing plants combined last week to slow down trading in lard and fats.

The average weight of hogs shows a tendency to decrease as many fall farrowed pigs are showing up at leading markets, suggesting that feeding operations are being curtailed, but announcement that there would be no change in the ceiling price prior to Sept. 1, as guaranteed previously by the Government, has tended to allay apprehension on the part of feeders who are expected to market their heavy-weight hogs in an orderly manner.

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BRITAIN'S NATIONAL HEALTH AT PEAK DESPITE 'AUSTERITY,' OVERCROWDING-London-Britain's health during the first winter after the war is better on the whole than at any time in her history despite continued austerity rations and increasingly overcrowded cities and towns. That this should be true after five war years, when the physical and mental strain on every individual in the country had been very great, is regarded by leading health authorities as a tribute to the fundamental soundness of the wartime food and price policies. An adequate diet at low prices has been provided for all at the expense of variety and luxuries for the well-to-do.

From New York Herald Tribune, Mar. 11 -

HOOVER TALKS WITH ANDERSON ON FOOD RELIEF-Washington-Former President Herbert Hoover, honorary chairman of the National Famine Emergency Committee, conferred today with Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, and other governmental officials in preparation for the meeting tomorrow of the famine committee which is expected to come to concrete decisions affecting American food consumers. Following the meeting, American consumers will know a lot more about the role they are expected to play in the food crisis.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 11 -

RAW SUGAR SUPPLY INCREASE FORECAST - Increased supplies of raw sugar should provide the basis for improvement in rations beginning with the second quarter of this year, Joseph F. Abbott, president of the American Sugar Refining Co. states in the annual report to stockholders.

"The initial increases will not be large," he predicts, "but they should be much better later in the year."

Concerning the outlook for 1946, Mr. Abbott says: "In Cuba, with a probable slight increase in our production and the increased price which we will receive for the raw sugar we produce, a good year may be expected although wages will be increased very substantially."

"Cuba in this war," says Mr. Abbott, "as in the first World War, has demonstrated its ability and willingness to provide the larger share of the sugar supplies for our country and our allies. In expanding again its sugar production to meet the demands arising out of the second World War, Cuba cannot overlook the fact that its first World War contributions in terms of production were soon forgotten and its sugar industry left alone to work out its resulting problems."

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RAW COTTON PRICES HELD KEY TO INCREASED CLOTH OUTPUT - The extent to which cotton goods production will be stimulated by the new yarn and fabric ceiling increases granted by the Office of Price Administration Saturday depends largely on how successful the Government is in curbing speculation in raw cotton, mill representatives declared yesterday.

The future trend of cotton prices is the key to the entire situation it is held. If cotton moves up substantially above current levels, the mills will be right back in the position they were before the new cloth increases ranging from 5 to 10 per cent were established.

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SUGAR BEET STATES NEED MORE LABOR, Washington - Senator Wheeler (Dem., Mont.) said tonight that he would appoint a committee of senators tomorrow to seek more labor for the sugar beet industry. The committee will be chosen from a group of Western and Mid-Western Senators...

The group authorized the committee to call on President Truman and the State and War Departments to urge retention of prisoners of war in this country and the importation of Mexican nationals to work in the sugar beet States this year.

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FLOUR MILLS STILL RESTRICT BOOKINGS - The flour trade was quiet on Saturday following a week featured by the general mill switch to 80 per cent extraction; a ban of March export quotas for many countries, and a delay in Government issuance of export licenses for eligible countries. In additions, the wheat supply held by many mills continued to shrink as country offerings remained inadequate, and in numerous instances it was reported that wheat inventories were much below the permitted 45-day supply. Bookings in this area were reported to have been made up largely of small lots which reached only larger bakers were displaying interest but few mill were willing to accept any substantial business pending a more accurate appraisal of costs in producing the higher extraction flour; assurances of adequate wheat supplies, and clarification of the problem created by the 3c advance in the wheat ceiling after the March subsidy rates had been announced.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

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Farm Digest 415-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 11 (Cont.) -

ALL CHICAGO OATS BELOW CEILINGS - For the first time since Jan. 25 all Chicago oats futures were below the ceiling and deferred wheat and barley contracts also ruled below their maximums as traders continued to display nervousness over recent and pending Government regulations and indications of some easing in the cash grain market, particularly for oats.

Attention of traders was still largely directed toward Washington in expectation of a new order placing feed grains under new controls which, many believed, would provide the cue to future market action.

Meanwhile, the cash market for wheat and corn remained extremely tight and an appreciable, sustained expansion in country offerings must be experienced before any progress can be made in overtaking the heavy accumulated demand.

Wheat closed unchanged to 3/8c higher; corn unchanged; oats 3/4c to 1 1/4c lower; barley unchanged to 1 1/2c lower and rye unchanged to 1/2c higher. Minneapolis rye lost 1 1/2c, while oats there lost 3/8c to 7/8c. Winnipeg rye was unchanged to 3c lower.

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NO BUTTER SUPPLY INCREASE IS SEEN - Extreme firmness in the local butter market was reported under acutely short supplies, a situation from which early relief seems highly unlikely. Production is lagging now 28 to 30 per cent below same time last year through heavy diversions of milk and cream to other far higher priced outlets. Reports of black marketing here are on the increase as the pinch continues.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 11 -

HIGHER DAIRY PRICES, ENDING OF SUBSIDIES URGED BY HOUSE GROUP, Washington - Higher consumer prices for milk and other dairy products, gradual elimination of subsidies and eventual ending of price control were recommended by a House committee as a cure for shortages and other ills besetting the dairy industry.

According to a report prepared for the Special Committee to Investigate Food Shortages, the basic trouble with the dairy industry is under-production. Last year, the Committee said, 122.5 billion pounds of milk were produced on farms in this country. Best estimates for 1946 indicate that production will drop to 118 billion pounds because of labor and price difficulties, and unless corrective measures are taken, the Committee fears that production may slump even further, possibly as low as 112 billion pounds.

In face of this possible drop, the report estimates that there is a demand for 132 billion pounds of milk at present prices and that the real need for milk is even higher.

To achieve this greater output of milk, the Congressional group recommends that Secretary of Agriculture Anderson be given full control of production, price and distribution of milk and dairy products.

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CUBAN-U.S. SUGAR TRANSACTION, Havana - Sen. Jose Manuel Casanova, president of the National Association of Sugar Mill Owners, said that negotiations for sale of Cuban sugar to the United States were "as well as settled" and the price for the 1946 crop would be 3.675 cents per pound. He also said Cuba would sell its 1947 sugar crop to the United States "under the same sort of protection accorded the Puerto Rico product."

From The Commercial Appeal, March 6 -

TRADE IS ABSORBING LATE COTTON HARVEST-There is a distinct possibility that the Government may not get all the late harvested cotton which is making its way from the fields to the warehouse these days.

Reports on the Memphis market are that there is a growing demand for the type of cotton coming from the fields and that it has been reflected in a price betterment in recent days.

Memphis merchants, in many instances, however, are urging that the producer obtain the Government class, no matter how poor the cotton may appear and prepare to seek the Government price if the market price is too low. Most of the cotton, it is said, will grade good ordinary and thus become eligible under the purchase plan. Every day of good weather is adding thousands of bales to the harvest and pulling the cotton producer a little farther out of the red for his 1945 operations. It is said that only a few more days will be necessary to complete the picking in some parts of Arkansas and Mississippi and that every effort is being made to get the cotton in while the weather permits.

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From The Kansas City Star, March 4 -

THE FOOD APPEAL TO AMERICA, Editorial, In a campaign shortly to be launched the American people will be urged to reduce their consumption of food as a means of sharing with the destitute millions of Europe and Asia. The entire program will be voluntary and the response will be left to the individual conscience. The need has been established beyond reasonable doubt. As the President has said, "Our national self-respect and our duties as human beings demand that we do all possible to stop the spread of famine."

Former President Hoover, who will serve as honorary chairman of the campaign, speaks from the background of experience in war relief when he states that "the inevitable aftermath of war is famine, and with famine civilization itself is jeopardized." He stresses the fact that "the last great reservoir from which starvation can be halted is in the United States." The effectiveness of this program will depend upon various things. It cannot become simply a generalized appeal. People must be told what kinds of food they are expected to save and how they can do it. This information must be given in a sensible and understandable form. Mere appeals for liberality and attempts to arouse sympathy through lurid recitals of destitution will not avail.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 7 -

URGES U.S. BUY BIG FARMS, SELL IN FAMILY SIZES-Topeka, Kansas, Government acquisition of all large farms in the United States for subdivision into family-farm units was proposed today by the program committee of the National Farmers union at the organization's convention.

The committee proposed "the initiation now of a program of government acquisition of large farms for subdivision into economic family farm units for resale in order to complete economic size family farms." The proposal did not say how many acres should make up the "family size farm."

The committee also urged the organization of county agricultural committees which would have complete authority to draw up farm plans for all farms in their counties.

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From Watertown Daily Times, March 5 -

FARM DISPLAY TRAIN SLATED, For the first time in about a quarter century, a demonstration train from the state colleges of agriculture and home economics at Cornell university will carry the latest developments in research to farmers, homemakers and rural youth over a wide area of New York state in the fore part of April.

Known as the "Farm and Home Special," the train of several cars with exhibits is a partial answer of the state colleges to the cancellation of the annual Farm and Home Week because of feeding and housing shortages. Many of the displays that were being constructed for the benefit of visitors for that occasion have been transferred to the railroad special.

Individual exhibit cars will feature a model tenant house, remodeled farm houses, examples of roofing, repairs of the farm home, efficient use of storage space with cupboards, home freezers, compressor, packaging unit, and similar interests for the homemaker. A dairy car will feature barn ventilation models, dairy barn arrangement, better milking methods, hay curing systems, D.D.T. grain and silage facilities. A poultry car will cover automatic watering, better pen arrangements for labor efficiency, ventilation and poultry equipment.

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From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 5 -

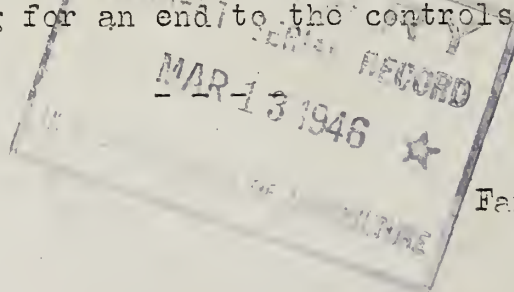
COURAGE AND INTELLIGENCE, Editorial, If the farmer sat down on his broken plow and refused to till his fields, or if he sat down on his harvesting equipment and refused to gather his crop, the result would be no different than when men in industry stop production. Food production drops because the efficiency of the farm's operation depends on equipment more than it does on the farmer's back--no matter how strong he may be--because modern farming requires highly specialized equipment. Let it be said that striking does not show intelligence--any machine can be stopped by stripping one of its gears; intelligence is shown when a machine is kept from breaking down. The same holds true of our national economy.

The farmer has shown great strength against great obstacles. Let the men in industry realize that it takes courage to show intelligence and uninterrupted production, as contrasted with lack of intelligence which calls a strike and paralyzes production.

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From The Times-Picayune, March 6 -

DROP PRICE RULE, CATTLEMEN URGE, AP, The Louisiana Cattlemen's Association called for an end to the government price control and subsidies program by June 30, in the closing session of its annual convention here today. A. J. McLemore of Rapides parish reported on a meeting he attended in Chicago recently, with 136 live stock groups sending delegates to discuss subsidies and price controls. He reported that the almost unanimous feeling of the organizations was that subsidies and ceilings should be eliminated by June 30, and the association adopted its resolution calling for an end to the controls by that time.



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2D14 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the New York Times, March 12 -

AMERICANS ARE ASKED TO CUT WHEAT USE 40%; FATS 20%-Washington-The people of this country were asked tonight by President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee to eat 40 per cent less wheat and 20 per cent less fats. The request was made after a day-long closed conference.

Simultaneously a subcommittee considered what Chester Davis, acting chairman, described as "the critical importance of adjustments that will limit consumption of feed grains by livestock" in order to send cereals overseas.

The voluntary program under which the American consumer is expected to cut down use of wheat, fats and oils was definite and detailed. Thirty-nine ways to eat less cereals and fats were specified, including open-face sandwiches, coverless pies, consumption of buckwheat instead of wheat cakes, and slimming the bread slice.

The conference met with Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. Herbert Hoover who will leave for his European famine-inspection trip later this week, was present. Members of the committee, with their expert advisers, numbered about thirty. Representatives of the restaurant and hotel trade, of retailers and wholesalers, and of food manufacturers made suggestions as to what specific action would be most effective in cutting down fats and oils. No vague and generalized "eat less" campaign, but what this city terms a "directive" emerged.

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BILLION FARM BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE-Washington-The House approved by voice vote today a bill appropriating \$1,102,000,000 for the Agriculture Department for the fiscal year 1947, but banning surveys of race conditions or cotton-planting problems in the South.

Republicans sought in vain to trim the total outlay.

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SUGAR INCREASED 10% FOR INDUSTRY-Washington-An increase by 10 per cent of the base in the level of sugar rations for most types of industrial uses during the April-June allotment period was announced today by the Office of Price Administration. A general similar increase was granted for commercial packing of vegetables and canned and frozen fruits.

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COTTON EXCHANGES ADVISED ON MARGIN-Washington-Senator Elmer Thomas, Democrat of Oklahoma, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee today advised Cotton Exchanges to ignore a threat by the Office of Price Administration to regulate margin requirements and warned them against becoming "tool of the OPA" in forcing farm prices down.

The OPA, on Friday, proposed that buyers of cotton futures be required to make a margin payment of \$30 a bale. In making the recommendation, it said that "speculators are largely to blame for driving the prices of cotton up."

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

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From the New York Times, March 12, Cont. -

GRAINS START EASY RALLY LATE IN DAY-Chicago-Grain markets showed an easy undertone in the early trading today on the Board of Trade, but rallied strongly late in the session, with the close on oats at net gains of $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 cent a bushel on the day. May rye was $1 \frac{7}{8}$ cents higher. Wheat failed to hold the full upturn and finished $1/8$ cent higher to $1/8$ cent lower, with May and July at the ceiling, although the latter was 1 cent lower at one time. Barley futures were unchanged to 1 cent lower, the latter on December. There was a light trade in July and September corn at ceiling prices.

COTTON SELLS OFF AFTER EARLY GAINS-Influenced by increased hedges against sales of spot cotton by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange closed yesterday 9 to 14 points net lower than Saturday's final levels.

The board of managers of the New York Cotton Exchange again discussed margin requirements for cotton futures. A petition was circulated on the Exchange requesting that no changes be made in margin requirements and it was understood that considerable opposition to changes was being registered in Chicago and New Orleans.

WAGE AND PRICE CONTROL-Editorial-The new wage and price regulations issued by Mr. Bowles, with their accompanying explanations, illustrate once again the contrast in the way in which the Government is "stabilizing" wages as compared with prices. Putting all other considerations aside, price control is impossible without wage control. Wages are by far the largest single element in prices and production. Prices can be controlled only if wages are controlled on the same principles....

The new OPA order revising prices on men's and boy's tailored clothing, together with Mr. Bowles' statement at a news conference yesterday, indicates a new emphasis on not allowing price control to stand in the way of production. Such a change in policy would be highly encouraging, but its consistent application would probably require more flexibility than OPA yet contemplates.

BRITAIN LIFTS PRICES TO SPUR FOOD OUTPUT-London-The Government announced today a scale of higher prices as encouragement toward producing greater quantities of home-grown food and reducing the country's call on diminished world supplies. Tom Williams, Minister of Agriculture, said in the Commons that the prices were guaranteed for a year ahead for wheat, milk, fat stock and eggs so farmers would be able to plan confidently. Minimum prices for livestock products were guaranteed for four years, leaving the actual prices to be fixed later.

MOSCOW OFFERS GRAIN TO FRANCE-Paris-The Soviet Union in a note delivered today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Ambassador Alexander E. Bogomoloff offered France 400,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of barley with which to meet critical deficits.

The Soviet Union, it was said, cannot undertake to ship the grain to France but will agree to make it available to French ships in Odess, Novorossiisk and Nikolayey.

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 12 -

PHOSPHATE GROUP'S OVERSEAS TIES HIT, Washington - The Federal Trade Commission has made recommendations to Phosphate Export Association that it withdraw from cartel agreements with foreign producers of phosphate.

Foreign parties involved in the cartel agreements, which were negotiated during the years 1933 to 1937, inclusive, included French North African, Curacao, Egyptian and British groups. A party to two of the agreements was Florida Hard Rock Phosphate Export Association, Savannah, Ga. This association had been investigated previously and is complying with the commission's recent recommendations for readjustment of its business.

The commission's recommendations to Phosphate Export Association are based upon a formal investigation, instituted in August, 1944, under the provisions of the Export Trade Act (Webb-Pomerene law)....

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AMMONIA OUTPUT HIT BY STOPPAGES, Washington - Work stoppages in the steel and coal industries since last July already have reduced by approximately 124,000 tons the anticipated United States production of sulfate of ammonia; members of the Civilian Production Administration's nitrogen producers industry advisory committee have reported.

All types of nitrogen production in this country except sulfate of ammonia had kept pace with the 1945-46 production program. The program, admittedly insufficient to supply domestic demand, is based on an estimate of 563,580 tons of domestic nitrogen production, 105,010 tons of imports from Canada, and 104,000 tons of imports from Chile.

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LIMITED USE FOR ENGLISH INSECTICIDE, Wilmington, Del. - Tests in the United States show that the English-developed insecticide sometimes referred to as benzene hexachloride is not a replacement of DDT and has at present serious shortcomings, Dr. W. H. Tisdale, director of the du Pont pest control research laboratory, said here today.

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U.K. AWAITS POLICY ON COTTON TRADING, Liverpool - The Liverpool and Manchester Cotton associations are still anxiously awaiting a statement of Government policy in regard to the future of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. The president of the Board of Trade said in the House of Commons last week that he hoped to solve the problem in the near future....

Raw cotton arrivals at United Kingdom ports continue fairly heavy and comprise mainly Brazilian, Argentine, Sudan and African cargoes. Consumption of raw cotton in the United Kingdom is at present running at an estimated rate of around 1,700,000 bales annually. Consumption of South American and African cottons is still increasing, largely at the expense of American and East Indian qualities.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce).

Farm Digest 525-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 12 - (Cont)-

INVENTORY CURBS HANDICAP BAKERS - A ruling by the Department of Agriculture late last week that mills no longer will be required to obtain inventory certificates from bakers when selling them flour was a heartening development but this was tempered by a decision that bakers, when figuring their inventory, must include flour in transit from the mill.

Full details of this latest requirement had not been received, but it was expected to inject considerable confusion into the bakers' supply situation as shipments have been subject to considerable delays enroute, with elapsed time ranging from two or three weeks to more than a month in many instances.

Should any such delays be experienced during the present emergency period they could quickly create an extremely tight flour position for bakers.

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CANADA PLANS NEW TYPE SHIPS FOR LAKES AND COASTAL TRADES, Montreal - Canada's Great Lakes fleet dwindled during the war years and there is a strong section of opinion among shipping men that canal-type ships which make up a large part of the fleet never will be as numerous as they were in prewar years.

Last year, ships of more than 500 tons operating on the Great Lakes numbered about 210, compared with 260 in 1939. Most of that reduction has been in canalers, shallow draught ships that went to war in foreign waters and never will return to the Lakes.

Another factor is possibility of the St. Lawrence deep waterway development which, when completed, would give deep draught ships access to ports now served by shallow draught vessels. It might take 25 years to complete the program, including deepening of ports, but few ship owners are likely to gamble on business for purely Lake ships with that project in view.

One possibility is that Canadian owners will turn more to a different type of ship, one suitable for both Lake and coastal service and somewhat along the lines of some Scandinavian ships which have operated in Canadian inland waters--vessels which have almost double the speed of Lake canalers.

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SIX NATIONS GIVEN USA AID ON FOOD - Ships of six foreign countries will continue to receive food supplies from Government set-aside stores under a ruling announced by the War Shipping Administration yesterday. Previously WSA had announced that after March 15 all foreign-flag vessels would either have to take on stores in their own countries or buy what they need here through regular commercial channels. The ships which are now excluded from this order and are permitted to continue buying through Government approved ship suppliers from set-aside stores are those of Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and tankers of Panama.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, March 12-

BOWLES PLACES PRODUCTION BEFORE PRICES, Washington. The Office of Price Administration and the Civilian Production Administration won late today restoration in a Senate-House conference committee of more than \$1,000,000 in appropriations previously slashed away by the Senate, as Chester Bowles, Director of Economic Stabilization, said he was "very determined" that prices would not get in the way of production.

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From The New York Times, March 10 -

REPORT FROM THE NATION, Midwest States -- A New Tractor and Security Are the Farmer's Wish, Omaha, Although financially sound at present, the average Midwestern farmer would be much happier if he could get a new tractor and be assured of a reasonably secure tomorrow.

As always, his chief 1946 concerns are the weather and farm prices. His world revolves about that dual axis in good years and bad.

But the concern which ranks next on his worry list is shared with city residents. It is inflation. After making good money for several years, he is concerned with maintaining the purchasing value of the dollars which have rolled in. That fact was dramatized by the appearance of Chester Bowles before the convention of the National Farmers Union at Topeka, Kan., this week.

The farmers' qualms over runaway inflation are very real. After the 1929 crash, for instance, the prices paid for farm goods skidded much lower than the prices of the things he had to buy. In addition, depression-struck city dwellers flocked back to the family homestead at a time when it was illequipped to support them. The farmer knows the same thing could happen again and the knowledge has made him cautious.

During the past several years he has been paying off his debts and saving his surplus cash. Mortgages are being paid off far in advance of schedule. He has resisted, in most cases, the temptation to expand land holdings at inflationary prices. He has been aided by the fact that his savings have increased faster than living costs.

From The New York Times, March 10 -

HOOVER PLEDGES FOOD TO ALL, REBUFFS CIO-Washington, (U.P.)--Former President Hoover said tonight that he expected American relief food to be distributed to starving peoples abroad "without differential as to race, religion or political belief."

Mr. Hoover thus answered CIO and left-wing criticism of his appointment as honorary chairman of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee. The CIO Women's Auxiliary had accused the former President of using food as "a reactionary weapon" in his relief missions to Europe before and after the first World War. That was not the case then, and would not be now, Mr. Hoover said in an interview.

From New York Herald Tribune, March 10 -

O.P.A. IS FACING LOSS OF CONTROL OF DAIRY GOODS-Washington--The Office of Price Administration received a sharp rebuff today when the House Food Investigating Committee recommended that the agency's price-control powers over dairy products be transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

The committee at the same time, recommended that the ceiling on butter be raised to 6 to 12 cents a pound as a means of increasing production. This, too, was a victory for the Agriculture Department, which for weeks has been engaged in an under-cover argument with the O.P.A. on butter pricing.

MR. HOOVER GOES ABROAD, Editorial, Only his stern, Quaker-bred sense of duty probably caused Herbert Hoover to accede to President Truman's request that he inspect food conditions in Europe. Meanwhile, under Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's direction, the food-saving campaign gets under way at home. It's a little hard to hear some well-fed American declare self-righteously that he cannot possibly live without butter, when so many people in the world have no bread. But the great majority of Americans will make the necessary small sacrifices and, in doing so, they acquire the right to demand that the shipment and distribution of the food saved be handled with the utmost efficiency. Mr. Hoover's personal interest in the work gives promise that it will be.

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From The Kansas City Times, March 6 -

DOUBT IN A PRICE BOOST OF WHEAT, Editorial, The lifting of the wheat price ceiling by 3 cents a bushel is part of the government's effort to make more grain available in the present emergency for shipment to hungry people in other nations. Another part is the save-the-food program.

There still is a large amount of wheat on farms and in interior elevators in the United States. The amount is not unusual, however, considering the size of last year's crop. In order to fulfill its commitments to other nations, the government needs more than normal marketing of wheat. It must sweep the bins. There is little to indicate the 3-cents boost in wheat will bring this result.

Farmers who have not marketed their wheat this season have had logical reasons, including prospects for higher prices (now proved partly valid), uncertain crop conditions in the Southwest and, before January 1, income tax rates higher on 1945 income than on that of 1946. Three cents a bushel would not appear sufficient to counteract these factors.

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From The Weekly Kansas City Star, March 6 -

FARMERS PAY \$50 EACH FOR AID IN BALANCED FARM PLAN--Carrollton, Mo. -- Forty-six farmers of Carroll County, Missouri, have "laid money on the line" to get a start in balanced farming, the system which combines the good practices of agriculture into one plan fitted to an individual farm for a maximum return from the land without taking away from the fertility of the soil.

The forty-six each have paid \$50 into a fund which has been matched by the extension service to employ a special county agent to work on these farms. The agent employed, who has been named as associate to Miller Carpenter, the regular extension agent in the county, is Ray Hargrave, just recently out of the army, where he saw service in Europe. Hargrave was in extension work before entering the army.

The plan of the farmers chipping in out of their own pockets to get supervisory help in establishing a balanced farm program is brand new in Missouri, Carpenter said.

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From The News and Observer, Raleigh, N.C., March 7 -

BRIGHT BELT MEN FOR BRITISH LOAN-The board of governors of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association unanimously passed a resolution yesterday endorsing the proposed \$3,750,000,000 loan to Great Britain, asserting that negotiation of such a loan would be helpful to tobacco growers throughout the flue-cured area, as well as to producers of other export agricultural crops.

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For March 13, 1946)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 13 -

HOOVER LOOKS TO LATIN AMERICA TO HELP FEED STARVING OVERSEAS-Washington-Herbert Hoover, "honorary" chairman of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee, appealed today to Latin America, as the greatest potential source of food-stuffs for shipment to starving peoples overseas, to cut down United States imports and step up European exports to a possible total of 5,000,000 tons in the next four months.

What the rest of the Western Hemisphere might share, by the same sort of belt-tightening methods which his committee launched for this country yesterday could be combined with the 2,000,000 tons expected to be saved by the United States and Canada, thus coming close to filling the 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 ton gap in Europe's supply, Mr. Hoover said at a press conference.

"Bread grains in sight are between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 tons," he said. "The need is for 21,000,000 tons, if we are to maintain the present bread ration in all the famine-struck countries. The ration can't be reduced by 45 per cent without complete catastrophe. Our problem is to bridge this gap."

Aside from Australia, which has some cereals, and Siam, which has some exportable rice, he said, the major supplies are in the South American countries, including rice and other commodities in Brazil, and wheat surpluses in Argentina. Cutting down the amount of grains being fed to livestock and poultry in order to send food abroad, Mr. Hoover said, "gets down to the same old practical question of granting authority to the Secretary of Agriculture."

He reported that his committee had passed a resolution urging that the Secretary have the power to readjust prices so as to reduce the amount of the foodstuffs going into animals-"a tremendously excessive proportion, away beyond normal."

BREAD BASKETS QUIT RESTAURANT TABLES-The bread-and-rolls basket disappeared yesterday from many hotel and restaurant tables as public eating places pledged full compliance with the food conservation recommendations of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee.

MEAT PRICE RISE IN APRIL-Washington-Retail meat prices will go up about 1½ per cent next month as a result of higher prices allowed wholesalers, the Office of Price Administration said today. The increases are being granted to compensate packing houses for wage adjustments.

HEDGING RESTRICTS UPTURN IN COTTON-Increased Southern mill buying had a steadying influence yesterday on the cotton futures market on the New York Exchange, which closed unchanged to 7 points higher than on Monday. Early in the trading the market showed gains of 6 to 10 points but it lost part of them under heavy hedge selling against the release of Government-owned cotton. (Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

From The New York Times, Continued, March 13 -

GRAIN PRICES GAIN AFTER EARLY DROP-Chicago-Operations in the grain markets today on the Chicago Board of Trade were smaller than recently, and the undertone was unsettled. Oats broke early on selling attributed to northwestern account, only to rally later with May in the lead on buying by cash interests and closed with a net gain of $3/8$ cent a bushel, while the deferred months lost $1/8$ to $1/4$ cent. May rye rallied $2\frac{1}{4}$ cents from the early low, but reacted and finished with a gain of $3/4$ cent. The deferred deliveries of wheat rose $1/4$ to $3/8$ cent. May and July wheat, deliveries of corn and barley and the distant positions in rye futures finished unchanged.

Buying of wheat futures was stimulated by announcement that the Commodity Credit Corporation had purchased 5,815,000 bushels of wheat between March 8 and 11, largely in the Northwest. The grain will move to Atlantic ports for exports to Europe. No attention was paid to the recommendations made by an emergency food committee that the public curtail consumption of wheat products.

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DAIRY HEAD SEES SHORTAGE OF MILK-Chicago-The growing scarcity first of butter and now of bread will be followed by that of milk, Owen M. Richards, manager of the American Dairy Association, told directors at their annual meeting today.

Not since the drought years have cows disappeared at the rate herds are being depleted today, Mr. Richards warned. He quoted Government figures showing that for every 1,000 milk cows on farms at the beginning of 1945, 255 were culled out or died during the year. In only five other years in the last twenty-five have more than 200 cows per 1,000 been eliminated, he said, and added;

"No drought did this. No depression did it. This is what happens when arbitrary man-made laws are blindly enforced at the expense of the law of supply and demand. It is time we got back to free, unfettered competition and an honest product at an honest price."

"Today there is butter, for a dishonest price, on the black market. Tomorrow you may be buying black market bread. Can city dwellers honestly desire to buy their milk on the black market too."

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 13 -

TRUMAN MOVES TO SET UP A U.-S. FAMINE COUNCIL-Washington-President Truman sent telegrams, today to 125 leading citizens, requesting that they serve on a national famine emergency council as the link between Washington and American public in mobilizing the nation behind a 120-day period of voluntary conservation of wheat and fats.

The President moved to implement the call of his famine emergency committee for a four month conservation effort, as former President Herbert Hoover, honorary chairman of the group, completed his plans to leave by air Sunday for a tour of the countries of the world which are asking for help either to avert famine or to ameliorate present starvation.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 13 - 1946

DEWEY INDORSES IVES PROBE OF N. Y. MILK PRICE SPREAD, Albany, N. Y. - Governor Dewey today indorsed the Ives Agricultural Commission's report promising an investigation of the milk industry, but Democratic legislators challenged the sincerity of the pledge.

The report pledged a probe of the milk price spread as soon as possible and an inquiry into farm cooperatives. In its 112-page report, the 17-man commission recommended continuation of Federal food subsidies "on a tapering off basis," early elimination of price ceilings on perishable foods and extension of emergency farm labor provisions. Corrou and Emma (Democratic members) contended in a minority report that the commission was created "to forestall the popular demand for a real inquiry into the 'milk spread.'"

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DECLARES COTTON MARGINS ADEQUATE - Comment among cotton brokers here last night following report that Economic Stabilizer, Bowles had asked for higher margins instituted by the New York Exchange recently never have been given an adequate test. The scale of requirements has been so far above other out-of-town exchanges that business has been diverted from New York to these centers, it was stated.

It was pointed out by one source that New York, which normally does about 75 per cent of the daily futures business, is currently doing 50 per cent and less.

Brokers here feel that before going along on any proposal of OPA to further lift margins voluntarily, the present rate should be given an opportunity to prove itself by requiring other exchanges to adopt the same scale. It is felt that this is the first move which OPA should make. This would prevent speculators from operating through the out-of-town exchanges and in the opinion of many local brokers, would prove an effective stop to recent speculative activity.

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COTTON FARMERS WILL PLANT 19,744,000 ACRES IN 1946 - Cotton farmers intend to plant 19,744,000 acres this season, according to March 1 reports received by The Journal of Commerce from its correspondents throughout the South. This compares with the 20,200,000-acre goal set by the Department of Agriculture recently and the 17,688,000 acres actually planted for the 1945 season, based on the December 1, 1945, report of the Government.

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EXPORT LICENSES GRANTED FOR FLOUR - Flour export interests reported yesterday that some export licenses had been granted for March shipment to eligible countries and that more were believed to be in the immediate offing.

Delays in granting licenses had been causing considerable concern as mills had contracted for very substantial quantities which, if not moved, would soon start to back up and might have forced curtailments in the grind.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce,)

Farm Digest 535-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 13 (Cont) -

TEXAS CAUTIONS BAKERS OF BREAD LOAF WEIGHTS, Austin, Tex., - The Texas State Department of Agriculture said today that President Trumans' plan to reduce the loaf weight of bread was illegal in Texas, and that it was the department's duty to enforce the State regulation for standard weights.

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MARKETS - Renewed negotiations for olive oil-soybean oil swap with Spain interest trade...Poultry markets hold steady...Apple, strawberry shortages again feature fresh fruit trade...Asparagus weakens in fresh vegetable market...Some distributors withdraw shelled pecan offers as spot supplies dwindle...Rice demand holds far in excess of supplies...Flour export licenses granted for March shipment to some eligible countries; others seen pending...Heavy output of steer beef, near normal supplies of veal and calf reported in meat trade.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 13 -

FOOD RATION REDUCED - Austrian food rations were cut by the Allied Control Council to 1,200 calories daily, from 1,800.

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SAVING FOOD - Editorial - President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee has asked the people of this country to cut their consumption of wheat 40 per cent and fats 20 per cent. The need is great, for in the war devastated countries hundreds of thousands face starvation.

The Committee has suggested numerous ways for elimination of waste. None of them seem to us to impose any great hardship and if this program is energetically publicized and if it is offered to the American people as something they are asked, not ordered, to do, the response will, we believe, meet the goals that have been set.

It is rather surprising that among its suggestions the Famine Committee failed to include that great American institution the banquet. Perhaps this flourishes in New York City more luxuriantly than in other sections of the country. It would be perfectly possible for a resident of the metropolis to attend one of these affairs six nights of the week. At the risk of incurring the wrath of the hotel men who serve these repasts and that of the laundry men who wash the boiled shirts that cover the chests of the guests, we wish to raise the question whether these affairs are an essential element in either the happiness or efficiency of the nation. That they do waste food is hardly debatable.

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STRIKES HAVE CUT FARM EQUIPMENT OUTPUT 60%; Chicago - Farm equipment production has been cut as much as 60% by strikes, Alva W. Phelps, president of the Oliver Corp., told stockholders at the company's annual meeting. This reduction in output reflects both strikes within the farm equipment industry and curtailments caused by strikes within other industries supplying basic raw materials and component parts, he said.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 12 -

U. S. MOVES SEEM SPUR TO RETAIL FOOD HOARDING-Grocery stores and other food retailers are hoarding food supplies in anticipation of inflated prices which they expect will result from the government's wage policies and plans for sending food to Europe, the American Institute of Food Distribution, Inc., reported yesterday in its weekly market report.

"If President Truman and Chester Bowles could have examined sales comparisons of distributors received this week they would have realized that government actions and publicity have perceptibly increased food accumulating," the report said. "Most retailers are endeavoring to build up stocks, wishing to protect themselves from shortages but also believing that the wage inflating program means higher prices for foods later in the year."

Over-all sales by wholesalers during the week were up 15 per cent over the corresponding 1945 period, but individual distributors reported sales as high as 30 to 40 per cent over last year. Even the most unfavorable reports were on a level with those of last year, and these were occasioned by stock shortages rather than a let-down in demand, the report said.

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FLOATING SOIL CONTAINS STEAK AND POTATOES-E. Sydney Stephens, chairman of the Missouri Conservation Commission, speaking before the American Wildlife Conference, urged that outdoor writers help to arouse public opinion behind intelligently planned conservation.

"I ask them (the writers)," he said, "wouldn't it be interesting and intriguing -- not to say news -- to tell their readers that foxes which live alongside deer don't rob chicken roosts: that deer shed their antlers, from which moles and mice extract the lime; that, once saturated with calcium, these rodents (the choicest food of the fox) satisfy Reynard's craving for calcium and leave him content not to risk his life by invading the farmer's chicken house?"

"Which is more thrilling, more sensational -- not to say more newsy -- that old Bill Jones killed his limit last Saturday in two hours on the old Smith place, or that every five minutes, in flood times, the top soil of 100 acres of land floats down the Missouri River; that the top soil contains beef-steak and potatoes, roast duck and broiled quail, and bread and butter with jam on it -- more groceries annually than we exported to all our allies during the biggest year of the war?"

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AN IMPROVEMENT, Editorial, The contrast between Mr. Chester Bowles' speech over the air Saturday and his statement of wage-price policy which appeared in yesterday's news columns deserves attention. The speech was a demagogic utterance which plainly distorted the conditions it dealt with. The statement with its prodigious supplement of questions and answers does, on the other hand, outline a course of procedure as nearly practical, perhaps, as one could expect in this extremely uncomfortable period of the government's lingering control of the country's economy.

In the matter of price relief, meanwhile, he has issued a new set of rules, rather intricate, to be sure, but which, when digested, should convey to the business community a greater assurance than heretofore that its wage-price problems will receive prompt study and reasonably sympathetic treatment.

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From The Sun, March 10 -

RESINS RAISE SUGAR YIELD-New York, (AP)-- An increase in production of sugar, without raising any more beets or cane, is promised in operations starting this year in California and Cuba with a new method of sugar-marking.

The Holly Sugar Corporation, of Colorado Springs, Col., is applying the process to a portion of this year's beet-sugar crop at its Alvarado (Cal.) factory. The Manati Sugar Company of New York and Cuba, is conducting similar operations at its Cuban factory.

The new process is described as a magnetic filtration, which requires no sugar refinery. The treated beet or cane juice produces refined sugar direct. For every ton of cane or beets more sugar is produced, and with no black strap molasses. The molasses is replaced by an edible syrup.

The American Cyanamid Company is furnishing the new process and co-operating in the California and Cuban tests. This company's figures indicate about 20 per cent saving compared with present sugar-making methods. The saving is threefold: Increased sugar production, decreased production costs and the need for considerably less equipment.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 5 -

HEAVY PENALTY GOES TO ARKANSAS FARMER-Clay Rodgers, Chicot County, Ark., and Tunica, County, Miss. farm owner, will be required to pay penalties of \$8,721, including interest, on cotton raised in 1940-43 in excess of his quotas allowed under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, according to a decree entered yesterday in Federal Court by Judge Marion S. Boyd.

Judge Boyd held that AAA marketing penalties for the years, 1940-43, were not suspended by orders of the War Food Administration, and that Mr. Rodgers had violated the Act. He will be required to pay 6 per cent interest on the penalties.

The farm owner also must file a farm operator's report for 1942-43 as required by the AAA.

In a complaint filed last August it was charged that Mr. Rodgers marketed 111,842 pounds of cotton in excess of his quota during the three years. Penalties on the excess ranged from three to eight cents a pound, the order stated.

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From The New York Times, March 10 -

ALARMED OVER SALES OF SOUTHERN MILLS-Charlotte, N.C., (AP)--The Charlotte News said today that "vital elements" of Southern business "viewed with alarm" the current buying of Southern cotton textile mills by Northern capitalists. "This means," The News said, "the advent of relatively large-scale absentee ownership and probabilities of shake-ups in the managements which heretofore were headed by men of the South." The current buying, The News said, centers the various business relations in Northern cities. "The loss falls upon the South's spot cotton dealers, the warehousemen, the distributors of mill supplies, and the machinery repair shops and even the bankers."

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2D14 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409-A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 14 -

FEED ALLIES FIRST, BEN SMITH URGES - Washington - Sir Ben Smith, British Food Minister, told a news conference today that he would urge on the Combined Food Boards a policy of letting the wartime Allies have first chance at the world's scanty food supply and of putting former enemy countries "at the end of the queue."

He said that he spoke chiefly of Germany and Japan since Italy had become a co-belligerent. He predicted an agreement soon under which the combined military authorities in Germany would reduce the diet there from the present goal of 1,500 calories to 1,000 a day a person. He said that he hoped the Japanese diet would be cut from the 1,500 calories, said to be the aim of the military government, to the same level as Germany.

The man who has charge of British rationing thus plunged into a question which Herbert Hoover, Truman's famine emergency committee, was disinclined to discuss yesterday, but finally remarked: "My whole approach is purely a proposition of human need."

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MRS. TRUMAN GUEST AT 1ST COTTON BALL - Washington - Mrs. Harry S. Truman, wife of the President, Miss Margaret Truman, the Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Clinton P. Anderson, and the Senators and Representatives from the "Cotton States" and their wives were honor guests at the Tri-State Congressional Fashion Show and Cotton Ball, the first of its kind, held here tonight.

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GRAIN FUTURES UP, CLOSE AT THE TOPS - Chicago - Continued scarcity of cash grain and the reports of increasing shortages of foodstuffs in Europe brought in aggressive buying of grain futures today on the Board of Trade and prices ranged higher, closing at the top.

May and July wheat finished at the ceiling, with the distant months up 1/8 cents a bushel. Oats gained 1/4 to 1 cent, with May ending at the ceiling. May rye was unsettled within a range of 4-1/4 cents but closed at the top, gaining 1-5/8 cents in sympathy with an advance of 5 cents, the limit, in Winnipeg. Barley futures were unchanged to 5/8 cent up, corn was unchanged, and dull at ceiling prices.

That little excess wheat is available in country elevators and at terminal markets is being absorbed by the Commodity Credit Corporation, which has taken about 7,500,000 bushels in the last few days at ceiling prices plus legal mark-ups.

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GM PACT STEADIES MARKET IN COTTON - Settlement of the General Motors strike gave the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange a steady tone in the late trading yesterday and final prices were 18 points higher to 6 points lower than on Tuesday.

From The New York Times, March 14, (Cont.) -

COTTONSEED CRUSH OFF - Washington.- The Bureau of the Census reported today that cottonseed crushed from Aug. 1, 1945 to Feb. 28 last, was 2,671,178 tons, compared with 3,132,771 tons a year before. Cottonseed on hand at mills on Feb. 28 was 482,006 tons, compared with 1,066,564 a year before.

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WOULD CURB OPA ON FIXING PRICES - Washington - Removal of price controls on all items except those materially affecting living costs was urged today by the National Retail Dry Goods Association, which added that quotations for the remainder should be established under Government supervision "by those engaged in the production and distribution" of the commodities affected.

Prices fixed under the latter proposal should not exceed the levels necessary to afford pre-war margins above current costs, it was declared.

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VETERANS OFFERED FARM BUYING AID - Veterans who want to buy farms will receive top priority in credit and advisory service "because our fighting men have earned a great deal more than they are now getting and because a hungry world desperately needs what they can produce on American farms," Dillard B. Lasseter, Federal Farm Security Administrator, announced yesterday.

Mr. Lasseter discouraged inexperienced veterans from buying farms, until they have gained some agricultural training. He instructed FSA directors in eleven Northern States to list the localities where farms can be bought at fair prices, and said that "young blood," in the area especially, is badly needed.

The 1940 census showed that 20 percent of the Northeastern States farmers were more than 65 years old, he said, and the percentage increased during the war.

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ARGENTINA WITHHOLDS WHEAT FROM BRAZIL; DEMANDS RUBBER - Buenos Aires, Argentina - Argentina is withholding wheat from Brazil, which has only a few days' supply left, unless Brazil agrees to ship to Argentina rubber, which this country cannot obtain for tires from the United States because of the current friction, it was reported today.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, March 14 -

DELEGATES PICK WASHINGTON AS WORLD BANK SITE - Savannah - The metropolitan area of Washington was chosen for the permanent home of the World Bank and Fund today at a meeting of the site committee of the international monetary conference. Fred M. Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury and chairman of the boards of both institutions, announced today.

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TEAMSTERS BAR PARLEY IN CALIFORNIA CANNERY DISPUTE - San Francisco - The American Federation of Labor Teamsters' Union, conducting a blockade of northern California canneries, has rejected a proposal by California's Congressional delegation that a conference be held in Washington by all interested parties to settle the A.F. of L. Congress of Industrial Organizations jurisdictional dispute.

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Farm Digest 545-46-2

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 14 -

P. RICAN SUGAR ARRIVALS DELAYED - While sugar is arriving in volume new from Cuba, the flow from Puerto Rico has been stagnated by the failure of Congress to enact the necessary subsidy legislation. A few shippers in Puerto Rico, anticipating that action will be taken in the near future, have started shipments on their way to the United States but the sugar will have to be entered in warehouses until subsidy action is taken.

The movement of sugar in volume from Cuba has enabled refiners to speed up their melting operations. So that, despite the increase in exports that must be met from current operations, the refiners are in position now to meet the bulk of the higher consumer demand, resulting from validation of spare stamp No. 9. Throughout the country it is estimated, that 450,000 tons will be required to meet the demand against the No. 9 stamp.

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NEW BASING POINT SET ON GRAPEFRUIT, Washington - The basing point, the point from which freight costs are figured, for white grapefruit produced in Texas has been changed from Homestead, Fla., to Weslaco, Tex., the Office of Price Administration announced today.

This action, effective March 14, 1946, will increase the retail ceiling price by about 1c for each Texas grapefruit sold in the Northeast section of the country.

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REVISED BUTTER CONTROLS SOUGHT, Chicago - The American Butter Institute said today that under present conditions American consumption of butter will "shortly" be reduced to 1.84 ounces per person per week, as compared with 5½ ounces per capita before the war.

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RELIEF FOOD QUOTA RISE IS STUDIED, Washington - New and greater commitments by this country to assist in the feeding of Europe are now under consideration by the Government.

Because needs for the present European food emergency have already been determined, a survey to be undertaken next week by Government representatives is expected to be the basis for recommending even larger contributions than are called for currently, it was reported in top Government circles.

The emergency survey, which will be made by ex-President Herbert Hoover and five others, is designed to dramatize the critical food situation, rather than to determine what the situation is, it was said here. It is expected to go the further step of recommending new and increased aid for Europe.

A Department of Agriculture expert stated, meanwhile, that the approaching crisis in food has been noted for some time, but that its seriousness was misjudged until recently, when the Administration decided to lay the matter before the public.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 545-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 14 (Cont.) -

CEREAL PRODUCTS - Corn meal and rolled oats mills continued to feel the squeeze between ceilings for those articles and the higher ceilings for grains which became effective early this month.

Mill spokesmen stated that they had been feeling the pinch before the new grain ceilings were announced due to the persistent strength in the cash markets, the difficulty in obtaining supplies and rising costs. This situation has been aggravated by failure thus far of the OPA to grant corresponding advances for industries dependent upon grains....

Corn meal, in particular, was in very scarce supply with distributors aboe to satisfy only a small part of the active demand and there were no indications of any early improvement in offerings of shipments from mills.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 14 -

DAIRY DROUGHT - The shortage of dairy products, already a problem but butter and cheese eaters, will get worse in the months ahead. From such far-apart areas as New York, Texas and the State of Washington come reports that farmers are quitting the dairy business for more profitable fields.

In one section around Seattle, more than 1,000 milk cows have been sold in recent months. In Chattanooga, 100 fully equipped dairy barns stand idle today. Detroit reports the number of farms supplying it with milk declined by 218 in January.

In the Gulf Coast section of Texas and Louisiana, half the dairymen have quit producing milk to raise the more profitable peanuts and rice. Dairy group representatives predict that milk production this year will show one of the sharpest declines on record, falling far below the 123 billion pounds produced last year. That the decline is already under way is evident from the fact that 3% less milk was produced in January than a year ago. February is estimated to have shown a similar decline.

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ARGENTINE CORN PRICES RISE SHARPLY - Export offerings of corn, September-October shipments, were advanced 5 7/8 cents a bushel and quoted at \$1.78 7/8 to \$1.83 a bushel. Europe and Ireland were reported buying corn in the Argentine. May oats in the Buenos Aires futures market decline 2 1/8 cents a bushel to 94 3/4 cents.

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BOWLES ORDERS INCREASE IN COTTON MARGIN, Washington - Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles ordered the Office of Price Administration to raise margin requirements on cotton futures purchases to a uniform level higher than the margins now required on the New York, New Orleans and Chicago markets.

Mr. Bowles said he "had no choice but to employ and exhaust" all legal means at his command to stabilize cotton prices after the exchanges turned down a proposal for "voluntary action" made by his office and the O.P.A. He said the move was necessary to check speculative increases in the price of raw cotton and protect the Government's latest program to increase cotton production. The uniform initial margins will be \$10 a bale. When the price at which a transaction is entered into exceeds 25 cents a pound, the margin will be \$10 a bale additional for each 1 cent or portion of a cent of the excess.

- 5 -

From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, March 10 -

ACTION STARTS ON FOOD FRONT-By Marquis Childs, Washington -- At long last, it is good to report that there is action on the food front. The voluntary conservation program is getting going with steam behind it. Herbert Hoover is on his way to Europe to do the kind of expert survey that he should have been asked to do six months ago. And Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson has begun to set aside somewhat larger supplies of meat and fats for Europe.

But it is very late and the shadow of hunger is very dark. While voluntary savings on food can mean a great deal, there is another factor in relation to our supply which is even more important. If the Government got behind and pushed, using wartime powers, the amount of acreage planted in wheat could be greatly increased, it is believed, although only five weeks remain in which to plan a campaign.

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From Watertown Daily Times, March 11 -

A REALISTIC APPROACH TO PRICE CONTROL, Editorial, Chester Bowles has given authority for certain price increases which should have the effect of getting production really rolling. Clothing prices have been increased somewhat and likewise retail prices of certain consumer manufactured items. Mr. Bowles does not think these increases will affect the price of living to any considerable extent but he does think that they will clear up bottlenecks and stimulate production.

The people are behind Bowles. They know what would happen to them if controls go off. Those congressmen who are sniping at the price control program on every opportunity may also have a great awakening next Fall. Until such time as the amount of available goods equals the demand, price control must stay.

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From The Sun, March 13 -

GOOD INTENTIONS AND THE FOOD CAMPAIGN, Editorial, President Truman's thirty-nine suggestions on saving food have a most familiar ring. "Lay off the pastry." "Limit yourself to one roll or one thin slice of bread." "Eat more fruit." "Above all, no three-layer cakes." "Avoid fats. Boil or broil. Don't fry." "Substitute oatmeal for wheat."

Unless the Government can devise some method for withholding food at the source, such as rationing, we fear for the success of the program. The people who are normally careful not to eat too much may cut down a little bit more. Those who already eat too much are likely to continue to do the same thing. There will be some saving, but unless this campaign of exhortation is more successful than most such campaigns it will hardly produce enough to feed the hungry in Europe. Good intentions are of little use so long as tempting pastries, cakes and the like are to be had for the asking.

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From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 10 -

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS SAY SUPPLY OF SEED CORN IN IOWA SUFFICIENT FOR 1946 PLANTING-Des Moines -- (AP) Iowa farmers might not be able to get the exact type of seed corn they want, but there will be enough to plant in 1946 the largest acreage called for in the last 12 years, state agriculture leaders agreed Saturday.

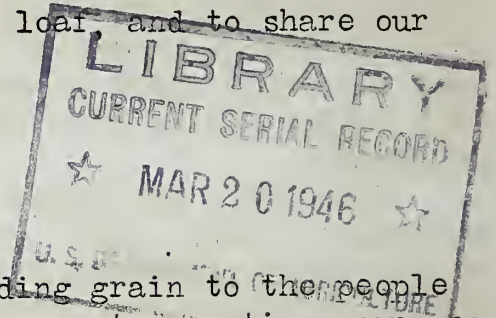
From the Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 10 -

TO SHARE OUR ABUNDANCE, Editorial, If any of us knew that a family in our neighborhood was starving, we would hasten to its help, regardless of such self-denial as might be necessary to share our daily bread. Certainly, we could not endure the thought of living in plenty while children a few doors away suffered and died for the want of food.

Millions of families in the war-wrecked lands of Europe and Asia are starving, millions of children are pinched and sick with hunger -- our neighbors in a world that is one in its human heartbeat and one in its largest good or ill.

What can we Americans, as a nation and as individuals, do to answer these crying needs? The Famine Emergency Committee, sponsored by the White House, is working out a program under which all of us can co-operate voluntarily in an effort to stop food wastes and to consume a bit less of wheats and fats, the essentials in which there is the gravest dearth in the hunger-stricken countries. This program will enlist the aid of hotels, restaurants and food industries, but it must above all else have the earnest support of our home kitchens and family circles if it is to succeed.

If we can tide them over the next four or five months until another harvest is reaped, the grimmost phase of the emergency will be past. The least we can do in good conscience is to waste no food, to accept cheerfully such wholesome substitutes as may be offered for the customary wheat loaf, and to share our abundance with those who are starving.



From The Kansas City Star, March 10 -

MEAT MAY SLIP A COG-Revival of the theory of feeding grain to the people instead of to livestock as a means of helping feed the war-torn nations overseas represents something of an official boost for vegetarianism, and may forecast a setback for the livestock and meat industry, it was said here yesterday in trade circles.

The anti-meat argument has been that grain will go much farther as cereal than as meat. A ton of cereal, it is calculated, will produce 430 pounds of pork which will feed 1,800 people, while the same cereal will make 1,932 loaves of bread and feed 4,300 people.

To appreciate the official importance attached to our pledge to provide grain for export abroad one has only to give ear to the recent utterances of the secretary of agriculture, who advises faster marketing of livestock now on feed in order to conserve grain for other uses, the trade points out.

Indirectly, the government has moved to bring this about by boosting the ceilings on grain. However, the parity provisions of the price control act required the OPA to raise these ceilings, and they were raised little, if any, more than the law required. A larger hike in the ceilings might have been more effective, but still would have fallen short of the black market value.

From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 10 -

FARM GROUPS OPPOSE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME-Organized opposition against the adoption of daylight savings time for the Quad-city area this summer appeared Saturday when heads of farm agencies and organizations of Scott and Rock Island counties, meeting at the Scott county AAA office in Davenport, went on record as opposing the proposal.

2 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 15 -

MINIMUM PAY BILL RUNS INTO BARRAGE OF SENATE 'RIDERS', RISE IN FARM COMMODITY PRICES-Washington-The Administration-sponsored minimum-wage-increase bill went before the Senate today and found awaiting it Democratic and Republican forces which set out to expand it so as to compel automatic rises in farm commodity prices by perhaps 20 per cent, curb the Office of Price Administration's powers and outlaw some practices by labor unions.

It appeared that the Senate was due for another bitter battle, with a Presidential recommendation at issue and with more attempts at revision coming up before final decisions are made.

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FOOD BOARD NEARS SHIPMENTS ACCORD-Washington-Prospects for a week-end agreement on allocations of rice and grain to world famine areas appeared bright tonight despite the fact that a meeting of the Combined Food Board adjourned tonight without taking final action on the problem.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson who sits with the Canadian and British delegates as United States representatives on the tripartite board, which must divide available world food supplies among needy countries, said that the committee was near agreement on allocations of rice for the coming quarter-year and for wheat for the first six months of this year.

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MEAT PACKERS ASK LIFTING OF CURBS-Washington-The National Independent Meat Packers Association asked today for the fliting of price controls on meat and meat animals on July 1 as a move to end alleged "Government support of black markets."

A statement charging that "price control on meat has completely broken down" was sent to President Truman, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of Economic Stabilization, the Price Administrator and members of Senate and House committees.

A statement, issued by Wilbur LaRoe, general counsel of the organization, charged that prices are now dictated by the black market and that there is "more inflation than there would be in a free market."

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ARGENTINA CAN SUPPLY WHEAT FOR EUROPE IF U. S. HELPS HER, SAYS ENVOY-Former President Herbert Hoover's suggestion that Latin America help feed Europe's hungry war victims received strong support yesterday from Genaro W. Cooke, Argentine Consul General here, who said that Argentina can produce a record crop of ten million tons of wheat in 1946, if certain machinery and other manufactured products can be obtained from the United States.

Senor Cooke explained that farmers in his country are greatly in need of American trucks, tires and other transport material.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, March 15 (Cont.) -

CANADA GIVES WORLD FOOD PRIORITY IN PROGRAM AS PARLIAMENT OPENS-Ottawa-The world food situation and measures to meet it ranked first on the program at the opening of the second session of the twentieth Canadian Parliament today.

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TRADING IN GRAINS FALLS OFF SHARPLY-Chicago-Trading in grain futures fell off rather sharply today on the Board of Trade with the markets unsettled due to uncertainty in regard to the status of margin requirements on cotton, an increase in which has been ordered by the Office of Price Administration.

Directors of the Exchange took no action to increase margins, awaiting the appearance of the official order in the Federal register. The Exchange is said to have obtained legal advice that the Government agency has no authority to take such action. Considerable discussion was likewise heard regarding the introduction by Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma of legislation designed to take away from the Office of Economic Stabilization the authority to fix margin requirements on commodity exchanges.

Distant deliveries of wheat futures moved up $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ cent a bushel to the ceiling price and all months closed at the permissible maximum figure. Oats closed $\frac{1}{8}$ cent down to $\frac{1}{8}$ cent up, with May at the ceiling after dipping fractionally at one time.

May rye lost $1 \frac{1}{8}$ cents net after a 2 cent range for the day. No trades were reported in corn, barley and the deferred deliveries of rye.

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COTTON PRICES OFF 8 TO 20 POINTS.NET-Cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange closed at the lowest levels of the day and 8 to 20 points net lower. While most of the selling appeared to be against releases of cotton by the Commodity Credit Corporation, several firms having sold about 40,000 bales of all months, there was also liquidation due to fears that the upping of margins by the Office of Price Administration next week will bring about a curtailment in buying power.

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GREEN WOULD JUNK TRUMAN CONTROLS-Carbondale, Pa.-William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor demanded tonight that President Truman scrap what he called his "crazy-quilt stabilization program" for a policy designed to remove all wage-price controls after one year.

"I propose, first, that the present crazy-quilt stabilization program be scrapped and that the President invite representatives of labor, industry and agriculture to confer with him on the drafting of an entirely new one which will be fair and just to the entire nation," Mr. Green said.

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FIRST 'EMERGENCY FLOUR' STOCKS DUE AT RETAILERS IN ABOUT A WEEK-First shipments of the new "emergency flour," produced as a result of the President's order requiring 80 per cent extraction of wheat, are beginning to move into distribution channels, it was learned yesterday. Supplies are expected to appear on retailers' shelves in about a week.

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From The Wall Street Journal, March 15 -

SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS TRYING TO TIE FARM LEGISLATION TO WAGE MEASURE - Washington - The Administration's minimum wage bill, now before the Senate, has become the vehicle on which hostile Southerners are seeking to send labor and farm legislation to the White House.

An amendment embodying the Pace parity bill was sponsored by Sens. Maybank (D., S. C.), Johnston (D., S. C.) and Russell (D., Ga.). This proposal calls for inclusion of labor costs in the determination of parity prices of farm commodities.

Sen. Thomas (D., Okla.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, introduced an amendment to bar the Office of Price Administration from carrying out its plans of increasing margin requirements on cotton exchanges. The Thomas amendment provides that no Government official or agency shall "interfere directly or indirectly, in altering or fixing margin requirements...."

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MARGIN ORDER NEXT WEEK - Washington - Regulations boosting margin requirements on cotton futures trading probably will not be issued by the Office of Price Administration until early next week, officials of that agency declared.

Stating that the new order requiring cotton exchanges to increase their present margins could not be issued before Friday, spokesmen indicated that it was more likely that it would be the first of next week before the regulation can be drawn up and made official.

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CUBA INQUIRING FOR U. S. LARD - Cuba continues in the market for U. S. lard. Intimations are that the amount sought may be as much as 1 million pounds. Export is being delayed by the inability of buyers to obtain permits.

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U. S. COTTON STOCKS SHRINK - Stocks of cotton owned and financed by the Government are estimated by the New York Cotton Exchange Service Bureau at 3,602,870 bales as of February 28 compared with 4,084,859 bales on January 31 and 8,848,257 bales February 28, 1945.

The sharp drop reflects the substantial increase in export business this season and the fact that the 1945 crop is about 3 million bales lower than the previous season. The cotton trade anticipates these stocks will be under 2 million bales by the end of the crop season, July 31.

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FERTILIZER SALES SET NEW RECORDS; SUPPLY STILL BEHIND DEMAND - Washington - Sales of fertilizer are rising but supplies are not sufficient to meet all needs. Transportation, manpower and raw material shortages are holding back production which easily could surpass 13 million tons during fiscal year ending June 30. In the latest fiscal year, the industry produced about 12 million tons of fertilizers, a record. During the present fiscal year there has been a heavy foreign demand as well as large requirements at home. Farmers have been asked to expand acreage. The National Fertilizer Association reports that sales of fertilizer in February set a record for the month.

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From The Wall Street Journal, March 15, (Cont.) -

U. S. OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT ON PURCHASE OF CUBAN SUGAR CROP - Washington - The United States has not agreed to buy the 1946 Cuban sugar crop under terms reported from Havana yesterday, according to Earl B. Wilson, chief of the Department of Agriculture's sugar branch and head of the group bargaining with the Cubans.

Reports from Havana stated that Cuba had agreed to sell the bulk of the 1946 crop for \$3.675 per hundred pounds in return for this country agreeing to send Cuba certain essential imports at 1942 prices.

Under the second part of the agreement, it was reported that the United States would furnish Cuba with 1.2 million tons of wheat, flour, 60 million pounds of lard, 75 million pounds of rice, 25 million pounds of vegetable oils, 24 million pounds of tallow and unspecified quantities of petroleum and its byproducts.

The probable explanation of the report, Mr. Wilson said, is that these are the terms which the Cubans will present on their arrival here.

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From The New York Journal of Commerce, March 15, -

CENTRALIZED CONTROL ASKED FOR FOOD PLANS - Washington - Legislation centralizing in the Agriculture Department all control over the nation's food program was drafted today by Chairman Jenkins (Rep., Ohio) of the special Republican Congressional food study committee.

It follows the lines of legislation some time ago by the late Representative Fulmer (Dem., S. C.) of the House Agriculture Committee.

"The food situation is getting worse and worse and this is in spite of Chester Bowles and his boasting that he is holding the line," Jenkins said.

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HARVESTER SEEKS OPA PRICE RELIEF - Chicago - International Harvester Co. officers returned today from conferences with Washington wage and price officials but declined to comment on whether progress had been made toward settlement of the seven-week-old CIO strike in ten of the company's plants.

The company position is that it must have some price relief before it can put into effect a fact-finding panel recommendation for an 18¢ an hour increase for its 30,000 striking employes, members of the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers Union. The strike began Jan. 21 over a union demand for 30 percent wage increase. The company offered 17¢ an hour wage increase which was rejected by the union, and then agreed to meet the panel recommendation if price increases were granted.

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UNITED FRUIT PLANS BANANA INCREASE - Progress of plans of the United Fruit Co. for a considerable increase of banana acreage in most of the countries in which the company operates assures a greater supply of fruit now insufficient to supply all markets, Samuel Zemurray, president, declared yesterday in the annual report.

The report said that 11,603 acres were added to the total of improved lands, 4,657 of them in bananas, a category that rose from 111,557 acres in 1944 to 116,214 in 1945.

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From The Northwestern Miller, February 26 -

A CRACKPOT BREAK-THROUGH, Editorial, The war bread decree from Washington must have been beyond the wildest expectations of the crackpot fringe of American nutritionists. Undoubtedly it took most of them by surprise. There were only a few scattered survivors, meek and quiet after the century-old campaign that had ended in a total defeat punctuated by the "atomic bomb" of white bread enrichment. But that they will rally quickly to the old standard and mobilize new regiments can be taken for granted. In fact, a spirited revival of the white versus brown battle already is under way, and the blows and repercussions of it will echo for years and leave new scars on the nutritional position of the staff of life.

Unmistakable intimations of the government "line" with respect to the darker bread emerged from the conferences in Washington that followed the brusque and abrupt announcement of 80% extraction. It became instantly apparent that a nation-wide publicity campaign was in the making, ostensibly to help the public understand why wartime sacrifices are necessary now. Chief among the "helps" to this understanding will be ballyhoo of how good the war bread really is. All the old clap-trap about "the higher nutritional values of dark bread" will be trotted out. Whence came the bright idea of a wartime loaf in peacetime? Did it come from the ranks of reputable nutritionists, from the breadstuff industries, from the consumer? Or did it come from the recently dormant but seemingly indestructible crackpot fringe within the Washington government -- from the old-time whole wheat die-hards and the stubborn enemies of white bread enrichment? It might merely have been borrowed from Britain as an implement of high international policy, but it has enough of a Washingtonian complexion to seem peculiarly indigenous. In any case, it is the spittin' image of a lot of other fool things that have come from our national capital, and probably feels right at home there.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 13 -

FAMINE ABROAD, Editorial, The American people have been requested to reduce their consumption of certain foods, especially those containing wheat flour and fats. The purpose is to provide additional supplies for the relief of famine abroad. The cause is one which deserves the support of every family in the land. We can hope that in every church and school, as in every newspaper, the duty toward the unfortunate will be stressed.

The American people have never failed to respond to such an appeal as this one. If this time the results are disappointing the explanation will be obvious. For the last dozen years and more the American people have not been trusted to cooperate voluntarily. The New Deal's method is coercion, rationing, and priorities, with fines and jail sentences as the persuaders. Unquestionably the New Dealers would have much preferred to reimpose rationing now and were prevented from doing so only because they feared the political consequences. It remains to be seen whether the people have become so accustomed to coercion that they are no longer capable of a wholesome voluntary response.

We can hope for the best and we can hope, also, that the administration will not try to run this campaign. That might very well be fatal to its success, for the administration is very largely responsible for the hunger that exists abroad and the famine that threatens.

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From The Times-Picayune, March 12 -

BUTTER ECONOMICS, Editorial, After a Chicago survey the American Butter Institute says the people there are willing to pay 10 cents a pound more for butter if it would increase their supply. About 71 per cent of the people queried, it is said, would be willing to pay the added price to get more butter.

A great many more or less shirtless men, no doubt, would be willing to pay more for shirts to get the 3,000,000 hoarded garments out of the warehouses. Still another group would vote to raise suit prices if that would bring out the clothes. Others would have ceilings raised on automobiles or refrigerators provided it would make these articles available.

But what would all the price-hiking get people? Momentary relief from some shortages, maybe, but certainly still higher prices later on. For the mark-ups automatically would bring on higher farm "parities," add to the cost of living and create new wage demands. Expressed in another way, costs would soon be pressing against the new price ceilings and forcing them upward again. To maintain the same percentage of spread between costs and prices, the actual dollars and cents spread would have to increase. Thus each lap in this dizzy race would place prices farther ahead of costs, which include wages. Finally people would be unable to buy -- then the bust!

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From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, March 12 -

NO WONDER THEY REBEL, Editorial, A thoroughly confused and disgusted reader, a retail lumberman, has sent us the Office of Price Administration's regulations covering softwood moldings. A study of it explains why there is so much bitter opposition to continuance of OPA control and methods. Perhaps if the methods could be improved to the extent that about 90 per cent were eliminated, and the remaining 10 per cent simplified to the point where the business man of average intelligence could understand them, objection to continued OPA price control would largely disappear.

The Commercial Appeal believes that continuance of OPA control of commodity prices is imperative as a preventive for unrestrained inflation and its tragic consequences, but it likewise believes that there is almost unlimited room for improvement in OPA methods and dire need for introduction of simplicity in OPA regulations.

Existing methods have driven American business and industry to the despair on which opposition to OPA continuance is founded.

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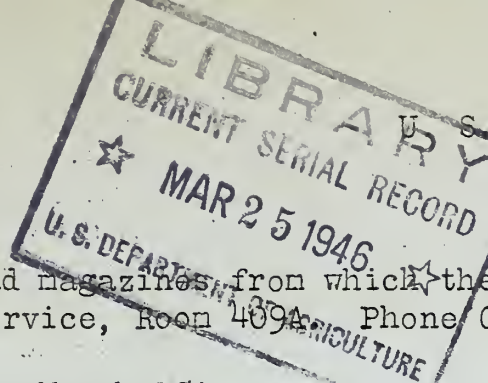
From The Boston Herald, March 12 -

OPA SANCTIMONY, Editorial, Chester Bowles promises "the greatest flood of goods this great nation has ever seen" as a result of the new "bulge in the line" policy. May it be so! But Americans familiar with the course of economic controls during and since the war must be forgiven some skepticism. Is this a genuine reform, or does Mr. Bowles merely have an anxious eye on the anti-OPA coalition in Congress?

The new wage-price regulations may seem to hold out hope for business and industry. But it was not the rigidity of formulas that has held up production since the war. There was no compulsion on the OPA to set an impossible \$3 ceiling on a quality bathrobe and then permit a new manufacturer to make a sleazy one for \$3.25. Many of the restrictions that have interrupted production and distribution have been applied as administrative interpretations and not as inevitable consequences of formal regulations.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For March 18, 1946)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 489A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 18-

HOOVER OFF TO SEE FAMINE IN EUROPE-Former President Herbert Hoover, appointed a few days ago by President Truman as honorary chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee, left La Guardia Field yesterday for Paris aboard an Army C-54 transport to begin a personal survey of starvation areas abroad.

Before starting yesterday Mr. Hoover said the present crisis was worse than after World War I because "it involves 500,000,000 people and the last time it involved 400,000,000."

WHEAT SHORTAGE IN EUROPE BENDS NATIONS' POLITICAL FATE-London-With Europe's 1945 wheat harvest 20,000,000 tons short of the pre-war average, millions of people in an area suffering from the double scourge of war and drought are so hungry that food has become an obsession. Their outlook on life is bent by this fact and their political reactions are sometimes incomprehensible to persons who have never been hungry.

As if the war had not done enough damage, Europe in the past year suffered one of its worst droughts. The wheat shortage for the year beginning last July is nearly 5,000,000 tons greater than the total amount of wheat normally entering world trade channels, according to the best available figures gathered by experts in London for consideration by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other allied organizations concerned with the problem of feeding Europe.

JAPAN WILL REVIVE EXPORTING AT ONCE WITH U.S. APPROVAL-Washington-The War Department has approved a tentative plan submitted by Gen. Douglas MacArthur for the revival of a wide variety of Japanese exports, ranging from cotton, silk and rayon goods to sharks' fins and electric light bulbs, it was learned today.

Officials explained that with the exception of silk and rayon goods, which are intended for the United States, the bulk of Japanese exports would be disposed of in the Orient, particularly in China, Formosa and the Netherland East Indies, either by barter or by reciprocal trade arrangements. The United States Commercial Company, a branch of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, has agreed to act as agent for the War Department in handling these transactions.

The Japanese cotton textile industry will be the first to receive American help in reestablishing itself, and the United States plans to supply Japan with 200,000 bales of raw cotton during the current year. This amount, however, may be increased to 550,000 bales, depending upon the progress of the Japanese in equipping factories damaged during the war.

First installments of the cotton shipments have already begun, officials said, explaining that they are being supplied by the Commodity Credit Corporation, which will be repaid by the United States Commercial Company from the proceeds of Japanese cotton textile exports.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 18 -

FARM LEGISLATION COMES UP IN HOUSE THIS WEEK, Washington - Farm legislation will take precedence on the program during the coming week. Most of the measures deal with technical agricultural problems and no major controversies are in sight.

Monday Speaker Rayburn (Dem. Texas) is going to bat personally for a bill to give soil conservation districts priority in obtaining surplus bulldozers.

Tuesday members will consider a bill creating an agricultural credit agency and another to regulate domestic raising of fur-bearing animals.

Thursday and Friday rural rehabilitation and farm lending processes are on the calendar.

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FARM MACHINERY PRIORITIES ASKED, Washington - The Republican Congressional food study committee today proposed that "wartime priorities" be given to manufacturers of farm machinery.

It is the first time that an organized Republican Congressional bloc has departed from the party's attitude towards "bureaucratic regimentation" to call for a reinstatement of wartime controls.

The committee said that unless priorities are granted farm output this year may fall "far below" established goals

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OUTLAY OF CAPITAL BY BORDEN AT PEAK - A record capital expenditure program, totaling more than \$23,000,000 including \$12,785,000 authorized for 1946, has been approved by the management of Borden Co., it was announced yesterday by Theodore G. Montague, president, in his annual report to stockholders.

Withdrawal of Government subsidies this year on fluid milk, Mr. Montague declared, may create problems for the dairy industry: "By reason of these subsidy payments," the President pointed out, "consumers have enjoyed a much lower price for fluid milk than would otherwise have been policy."

"Future Government policy in regard to these subsidies provides a problem since the already meager margins available to the distributor of fluid milk cannot absorb further increases in costs....

Total consolidated sales reached an all-time high of \$459,454,880 last year, stockholders were told, representing an increase of 12 per cent over the previous high of \$410,478,189 established in 1944.

Net income amounted to \$12,093,972, or 2.6 per cent of total sales and equalled \$2.85 per share of stock. This compared with 1944 net income of \$9,987,994, after provision of \$2,500,000 for a special contingency reserve or 2.4 per cent of sales, and amounting to \$2.35 per share.

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BUYING CANNED FOODS DENIED - Reports widely circulated in the food trade at the week-end that UNRRA had made heavy purchases of canned vegetables from Army surplus holdings were denied in Washington by a spokesman for that agency. It was stated that not only has UNRRA not made such purchases, but that no negotiations for such acquisitions are under way. Much interest has been aroused in the rumors in trade circles, as such purchases would tend to strengthen the over-all position of the canned vegetable market.

Turn to page 4 for others items from today's N.Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 565-46-3

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 18 (Cont.) -

SCARCITY OF WHEAT CURBS FLOUR OFFERS - Large scale buying of flour by France and requests for offerings for UNNRA featured the flour market during the past week, but of even greater importance to the milling and baking industry was the continued uncertainty over the wheat supply which was compelling many millers to withhold offerings.

Domestic bookings were somewhat larger during the week, but there was still a considerable waiting demand for bakers' and family flours which could not be satisfied due to inventory restrictions or the lack of assurance that the required wheat would be available.

Fears that the necessary wheat supplies might not be forthcoming were intensified by reports that the CCC was experiencing difficulty in obtaining the quantities sought for export and that this buying program might divert wheat which otherwise would move to mills.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 18 -

FARM HAND'S WAGES STAY UNDER CEILINGS IN 18 STATES, Washington - Now that the Government has successfully sponsored a handsome pay rise for industrial labor, some officials are embarrassed by the lingering low ceiling over farm workers' wages.

A Federal system of agricultural wage controls spreads through 18 states across the nation, restricting the income of men and women who handle myriad products including wheat and cantaloupes, sugar beets and filberts, naval oranges and hops, blackberries and broomcorn, alfalfa and asparagus cherries and dairy cows.

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NEW YORK COTTON EXCHANGE SEAT SALE - A membership on the New York Cotton Exchange sold Saturday for \$9,000, a decline of \$1,000 from the last previous transaction.

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MEXICO TO BUY CUBAN SUGAR, Mexico City - The Bank of Mexico has transferred 100 million pesos (\$20 million) to the National Union of Sugar Producers, a government-sponsored organization, for the purchase of sugar from Cuba.

The sugar will cost Mexico 6.5 cents a pound, which is almost equal to the retail price of native sugar. However, purchases from Cuba will be diverted to manufacturers of products using sugar and will not reach the retail market. A total of 100,000 tons of Cuban sugar is involved....

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From the New York Herald Tribune, March 18 -

FRANCE TO GET SOVIET GRAIN IN U.S. SHIPS, Atlantic City - On possibly the speediest international negotiation on record the United States and France have concluded an arrangement, it was disclosed at the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council meeting here today, under which the United States will make available to France immediately all the ships necessary for her to accept Soviet Russia's offer of 600,000 tons of grain.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, March 13 -

GRAIN TIE-UP OVER AT OMAHA, IS CLAIM - Omaha, Neb. --(AP)--There is an ample supply of boxcars available for shipment of grain out of Omaha and plenty of elevator space for grain storage here, President Charles H. Wright of the Omaha grain exchange said Wednesday.

Some grain was shipped into Omaha from Nebraska country elevators in open top cars during the boxcar shortage, but there have been no shipments of this sort during the last week, Wright said.

He explained that grain shipped from outstate points to Omaha in open top cars was transferred here into boxcars for the longer haul eastward. The supply of boxcars now is sufficient to remove the need of using open top cars even from outstate points, he said.

Very little grain is moving at present, he added.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, March 13 -

A CALL TO AMERICANS! Editorial, We are asked to eat a little less food so that a half billion fellow human beings may be saved from starvation.

We are urged by President Truman's famine emergency committee to make a "mighty, volunteer effort" for the next 120 days to keep the hungry abroad alive until the next harvest.

Americans have never failed to answer the cry of human misery, at home or in foreign lands. Americans have always been willing and proud to give of their plenty to assist those distressed by war or catastrophe or disaster.

We should be a little ashamed that our government feels it necessary now to call for our help in almost frenzied tones. And to feel that it needs to put the matter so strongly as to urge us to "drastic sacrifices."

Drastic sacrifices? One less slice of bread a day is recommended; also open sandwiches, open pies, two layer cakes instead of three. These are not sacrifices, as sacrifices do exist in the world. We are asked only to do a small amount, as measured by the suffering of nations since the Axis started out to destroy them. Surely we will do it -- and more.

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From The Antigo Daily Journal, Antigo, Wisconsin, March 8, 1946 -

KRAFT CONFIDENT CONTINUED HEAVY DEMAND FOR MILK-Expressing a belief that dairymen can look forward with confidence to continue heavy demand for dairy products for many years in the future, John H. Kraft, president of the Kraft Foods company, declared in a letter to milk producers that opportunities were never greater than at present, for young, efficient dairy farmers.

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From The Antigo Daily Journal, Antigo, Wisconsin, March 8, 1946 -

FERTILIZER SALES HAVE REACHED NEW All-TIME RECORD - Sales of commercial fertilizers reached a record all-time high in Wisconsin during 1945, according to W. B. Griem, in charge of the feed and fertilizer section of the state department of agriculture.

Sales during the year totalled 264,940 tons, as compared to 223,966 tons in 1944. Griem's tabulation revealed. This is an increase of 18 per cent.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 12 -

SENATOR THOMAS AIDS EFFICIENCY ARGUMENT - Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, without intending to do so, has offered one of the best arguments for the modernization and mechanization of cotton farming yet suggested.

In his fulminations against the pricing policies of the Office of Price Administration and more recently in his telegrams to the cotton exchanges, urging that they not lift their margins, he has made the statement that the price of cotton per pound is the hourly wage of the producer.

Assuming that the senator is correct in his statement -- although it is open to debate -- that means that the average hourly return for the farmer, at current prices, is about 25 cents. The senator makes much of the recent wage raises authorized for industry, the possibility of a minimum wage law and then charges that efforts are being made to hold the farm income down.

The proposed minimum wage, under the law now pending is 65 cents an hour. Using Senator Smith's formula, it would be necessary for the farmer to get 65-cents cotton to make that minimum.

It is doubtful if even the senator believes that 65-cent cotton would benefit the farmer, the race between cotton and synthetics being what it is today.

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From The Times-Picayune, March 13 -

FARMERS GETTING LESS THAN PRICE SUPPORT SUM FOR EGGS - Jackson, Miss., -- Farmers in 31 of Mississippi's 82 counties are receiving two cents per dozen less for eggs than the price to which they are entitled, farm leaders announced here today.

L. I. Jones, state director of the agricultural extension service, and T. M. Patterson, director of the USDA production and marketing division, said the USDA price support program calls for a floor price of 27 cents per dozen for loose eggs weighing 44 pounds or more per case.

In at least 31 counties, they said, farmers are receiving 25 cents or less per dozen.

"To meet this situation," they said, "and to aid producers to maintain prices at profitable levels so as to help meet the current export commitments, the USDA has contracted with egg dryers in surplus areas to serve as buying agents."

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 14 -

PREDICTS DAIRY FOOD WILL RUN BELOW DEMAND - Demand for dairy foods will exceed supply again in 1946, L. A. Bomel, president of National Dairy Products corporation, predicted yesterday in his annual report to stockholders. His report disclosed record 1945 sales and increased earnings.

Production of ice cream, salad dressing, margarine, and other products is restricted by shortages and limitation orders affecting the supply of sugar, fats, and oils, he said. The supplies may improve this year, it is unlikely they will be available in sufficient volume.

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From The Kansas City Times, March 12 -

MILK STRIKE DATE SET - Neosho, Mo., -- Six hundred dairy farmers from the heart of the Southwest Missouri dairy country shouted lusty approval here today of a resolution calling for a milk strike March 25, if the price of raw milk at milk plants is not increased from \$2.90 to \$4.50 a hundred.

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D14 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the New York Times, March 19 -

DRIVE TO INCREASE FARM PRICES GAINS-Washington-A determined drive to raise farm prices gathered momentum in the Senate today sparked by Senator Russell's comparison of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson with a ventriloquist's dummy.

The Georgian referred to Mr. Anderson in an interview as playing the "role of a Charley McCarthy for Mr. Bowles and the PAC" because the Secretary had opposed Mr. Russell's plan to lift farm parity prices.

Chester Bowles, Economic Stabilization Director, and the Political Action Committee also have attacked Mr. Russell's plan to revise farm parity prices upward through reflecting increased farm wages.

Mr. Russell has offered his amendment to the pending bill for increasing minimum hourly wages from 40 cents to 65 cents immediately and 75 cents at the end of four years.

Mr. Anderson aroused the Senate farm group by stating his opposition to the amendment in an interview at Kansas City. He called the plan inflationary and said that it would "wreck the whole stabilization and price control program."

The Senator said that Mr. Anderson's statement appeared to confirm reports that the "farmer has no real friends in any of the policy-making positions within the Department of Agriculture."

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ANDERSON DENIES BOWLES RIFT-Independence, Mo.-Denying any rift with Mr. Bowles over a move to check rising cotton clothing prices, Secretary Anderson told reporters:

"We are not in controversy over margins on cotton trading and my legal department tells me the Commodity Exchange Act gives me no authority to prescribe margin requirements.

"The Office of Price Administration feels it does have the authority. If this is so, the OPA will exercise it under Mr. Bowles' direction, but the Department of Agriculture will not be involved in that procedure."

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SHOWDOWN IS EXPECTED SOON-Washington-Mr. Anderson's assertion was looked on here tonight as moving the intra-administration showdown over higher margins on cotton futures trading a long step closer.

OPA officials said that they still believed an order to commodity exchanges requiring the bigger down payments on cotton for later delivery would be no good without Mr. Anderson's approval because of provisions in the Price Control Act.

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DRIVERS RESUME HANDLING MILK CONTAINER SHIPMENTS-Shipments of urgently needed fiber milk containers from the Brooklyn plant of the American Can Company were resumed yesterday afternoon when American Federation of Labor drivers decided to cross a picket line set up by members of another AFL union, who are on strike at the company's plant in Jersey City.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's New York Times.)

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From The New York Times, March 19 -

COTTON PRICES UP BY 13 TO 16 POINTS-Anticipating the battle pending in Congress against higher cotton margins and ceiling prices, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange stiffened yesterday and closed 13 to 16 points net higher than Saturday's final quotations.

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ADVANCES SCORED ON GRAIN MARKETS-Chicago-Bullish sentiment predominated today in the grain markets on the Board of Trade here. May rye moved up 3 3/8 cents a bushel at one time and gained 3/8 cent to 1 cent, with May going back to the ceiling price, and with the close at the top. A moderate trade was on in wheat and corn futures at ceiling prices, and barley was unchanged to 1/2 cent higher.

Buying was stimulated by talk of temporarily higher prices on cash wheat and corn in an effort to induce farmers to sell more freely, and it now is admitted by Government agencies that collections of wheat for the export program so far are much smaller than requirements.

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ONE WORLD BOARD TO COMBAT FAMINE URGED BY LEHMAN-Atlantic City-Immediate establishment of a single international food control board, with Soviet Russia included, to deal with world famine, in continuous session if necessary until the crisis is past, was urged by retiring Director General Herbert H. Lehman today in a blunt final report to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council.

At a session held to discuss the Lehman report, N. I. Feonov, delegate of Soviet Russia, charged the Combined Food Boards and other supplying agencies with failing to recognize the international authority of UNRRA, and with cutting down supplies to resistance nations despite UNRRA's pledges as to their rights to relief and rehabilitation as indemnity and not as charity.

Mr. Lehman asserted that premature lifting of food controls--and since this has been done only in this country there was no question but that he referred to the United States--had "contributed greatly to the present tragic situation." He warned governments of the world that they must institute controls that may be politically unpopular or face political instability, which may end in another war.

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POLES HEAR OF GRAIN CUT-Washington-President Truman, in reply to a message, notified President Boleslaw Bierut of Poland today that no grain-importing country "can hope to receive in the immediate future more than a portion of its needs."

M. Bierut had said he had been informed by the director of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration of proposed reductions in quotas, particularly grain, for Poland. "This news has taken Poland aback as she is in a particularly difficult situation," the Polish President wrote to Mr. Truman.

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OMAHA CUTS PACKING; BLAMES STEER PRICES-Omaha-Omaha packing plants are drastically reducing slaughtering operations, representatives said today, because "we can't buy cattle at present prices and stay within Government compliance."

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 19 -

COTTON TRADING CEILINGS - Administration plans to force commodity exchanges to raise margins in cotton futures trading have run into difficulties. It was reported that the Chicago Board of Trade may take the forthcoming order to the courts.

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THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH BAGS IN 1946 - America is going to be seriously short of bags in the first full reconversion year. For potatoes, sugar, coffee, feed and flour, for building-boom materials of construction, for the flood of relief food pouring overseas to the starving--there just won't be enough bags.

Commercial bags are made from three principal materials: Burlap, cotton, heavy brown paper. And the bag makers won't get enough of any of them to meet demands of their clamoring customers in 1946.

They expect to receive 28% less cotton textile yardage this year than last; 5% less burlap. They "hope" to have about the same amount of paper as in 1945.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEGS FOR RAIN - Los Angeles - Southern California farmers are ready to pray for rain. Serious crop losses and big water bills are in prospect if the skies don't open soon.

The so-called rainy season was a farce this winter. It has been the driest growing season since 1929-30. Since the first of the year only 1.74 inches of rain have fallen, compared with 9.15 inches in the like period last year and an average expectancy of 7.63 inches for that period. Since last July 1 only 7.62 inches have fallen; normally 12.42 inches are expected.

Orchard owners who have several hundred thousand acres in such crops as oranges, lemons, walnuts, dates and avocados in Southern California already are applying artificial rain to about 25% of their holdings. If it doesn't rain hard in the next couple of weeks, they'll have to irrigate another 25%.

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HEAVY GRAIN MOVEMENTS HINDERING BOX CAR DISTRIBUTION, Washington - No let-down in the demand for box cars is in sight, the Association of American Railroads reported.

The Association's car service division said the Government's grain export program extends to June 30 following which harvesting of 1946 grains will commence in volume and that the balance of the year shows little prospect for improvement in box car supply.

Movement of grain and grain products continues to be the greatest box car distribution problem....The demand for cattle cars continues heavy, but only minor delays in filling some orders have been reported. Loadings during the first nine weeks of 1946 were heavier than those of any corresponding period since 1932 and were 17.2% above the corresponding period of 1945.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from - - -
today's N. Y. Wall Street Journal)

Farm Digest 575-46-3

From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 19 - (Cont.)

CUBA SELLS MOST OF ITS SUGAR - Cuba has sold about all the 250,000 long tons of sugar earmarked from the 1946 crop for foreign countries other than the United States, according to the weekly trade review of Luis Mendoza & Co.

The average price realized was 6.962 cents a pound compared with 3.675 cents a pound which the United States will pay....

The sugar sales to foreign countries included: 100,000 tons to Mexico at 6.50 cents a pound; Uruguay 30,000 tons at 7.50 cents, Chile 50,000 tons at 7 cents, Venezuela 30,000 tons at 7.50 cents and Colombia 20,000 tons at 7 cents. The balance was scattered among smaller Latin-American countries.

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BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE CENTRAL COTTON BUYING, London - Sir Stafford Cripps, president of the Board of Trade, told Commons the government has decided to continue centralized cotton purchases in preparation for the establishment of a permanent cotton purchasing commission. It is unlikely, he added, that post-war international conditions would favor operation of a cotton futures market of the pre-war type.

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CHICAGO MEAT PACKERS REPORT PRICE, VOLUME 'SQUEEZE' UNDER WAY, Chicago - Chicago meat packers say that there is both a "price and volume squeeze on legitimate packers," but that the situation continues substantially unchanged from the past several months. Big packers here are operating at a "pitifully small percentage of capacity," one company official said.

The Chicago Regional Office of the Office of Price Administration estimates that 30% to 40% of all livestock sold in the metropolitan area ends up in the black market.

The practice of "custom slaughtering" has increased throughout the country and is carried out largely by independent packers and to a lesser degree by the big houses. Under this method, meat wholesalers buy livestock on the hoof and pay the packer a set contract price for slaughtering.

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NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCTS - The National Dairy Products Corp. is in the best financial condition in its history. The annual report showed that at the end of 1945, working capital was at a new record of \$90,474,000, an increase of approximately \$6.5 million over the 1944 year end. Cash and government securities were almost \$11 million more than a year earlier. In addition the company at the close of 1945 had sufficient U. S. savings notes to cover its entire 1945 Federal income tax. Another development which strengthened the firm's position last year was the refunding of its 3 1/4% debentures, due 1960, with a 2 3/4% issue, due 1970. By this financing, the company gained an attractive interest rate on its funded debt as well as a postponement of the maturity of the issue to 1970. During the past five years, funded debt of National Dairy has been reduced from \$70 million to \$50 million, with a substantial savings in interest charges.

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Farm Digest 575-46-4

From The New York Times, March 13 -

REPORT FROM THE NATION-The Deep South-Cotton Men Condemn Federal Price Policies-New Orleans-Southern cotton men are loud in their condemnation of the Government's recent actions affecting the cotton market.

The same merchants and shippers who a few months ago were denouncing the CCC program of purchases to maintain parity prices are criticizing attempts by the economic stabilizer to limit future speculation through OPA orders. The purpose of limiting speculation, of course, is to hold down prices of raw cotton on the exchanges.

In protesting the latest Government activity affecting cotton, the shippers and merchants are joined by growers. Naturally, the growers want no restrictions which will lower the price of their staple.

The New Orleans Cotton Exchange declined to adopt regulations proposed by the economic stabilizer, Chester Bowles, and the OPA administrator, Paul Porter, when its officers were called to Washington for confidential discussions last week.

D. T. Manget, Jr., president of the exchange, has asked the Attorney General of the United States for a ruling on the legality of proposed OPA orders fixing margin requirements. If the proposal to raise margins to \$10 a bale for each cent increase above 25 cents is held legal, Mr. Manget says, there is nothing the exchange can do about it. News Notes-Louisiana and New Orleans health authorities are ordering milk dealers to quit labeling their product Grade A, because they say there is little Grade A milk being produced in the State.-The Midwest States-Veterans Find Many in Line to Purchase Farms-Omaha-The war veteran who seeks Midwest farm land these days finds himself in much the same position as a woman at a nylon counter. There are many ahead of him in the line.

This is easy to understand. Farm profits are holding up well and, as a result, relatively few owners are inclined to sell or rent their land. The number of veterans and displaced farm workers who are seeking farms is large.

The National Planning Association estimated last fall that fewer than one-half the farms needed to fill the demand would become available. The group quoted survey figures showing that more than 1,000,000 veterans would seek full-time farming, with about 500,000 desiring part-time employment on the land. Against this large order, the association foresaw not more than 750,000 farms becoming available during the next five years.

Various organizations are giving the veteran what helping hand they can in the matter of finding suitable land. During January, State colleges of agriculture in the Midwest undertook, with the United States Department of Agriculture, a land ownership survey to provide up-to-date information as to farming opportunities for war veterans. Many veterans are marking time, meanwhile, by sharpening their farming skills through "AG" college courses. News Notes-Nebraska will watch a three ring political circus next week, with Agriculture Secretary Anderson keynoting the Democratic pre-primary convention in Lincoln and the Republicans gathering in Omaha for the Hugh Butler-Dwight Griswold Senate fight...Many farmers appear to be holding back their corn and wheat despite the recent boost in ceiling prices. Some believe additional jumps in the ceiling can be obtained by conducting an undeclared sellers' strike...

From New York Herald Tribune, March 17 -

TRADE HAILS RISE IN CEILINGS ON COTTON PRODUCTS-A resumption of normal business operations in the primary cotton goods market, after several months in which selling was virtually halted, is expected this week as a result of the new Office of Price Administration price schedules covering the great bulk of cotton goods production.

Farm Digest 575-46-5

From the Baltimore Sun, March 17 -

BEEF PACKERS HALT OUTPUT, Topeka, Kans. - Packers in several Kansas cities halted or reduced their processing of beef today, saying they were losing money.

No packer can operate profitably within the Government compliance prices R. H. Owthwaite, vice president and general manager of the John Morrell & Co. plant at Topeka, declared.

"Instead of killing a million and a quarter pounds of beef, live weight, this week," Owthwaite said, "we killed approximately 175,000 pounds--between twelve to fifteen per cent of normal."

The Parsons (Kans.) Packing Company will process no more beef after today, John Butcher, manager, reported. Butcher said his firm lost \$12.50 a head on six beeves slaughtered recently and that the loss had been running from \$10 to \$15 a head.

The Banfield Packing Company, Chanute, Kan., reported it had reduced its beef kill to 25 per cent of normal, of which half goes to the armed forces.

At Iola, Kan., Grover Menzie and W. P. McFadden, packing-house owners, said processing of beef would be "very limited." They said only an OPA price boost, or an increase in the Federal subsidy paid to packers on dressed beef could ease the situation created, they declared, by livestock price increases.

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BALTIMORE PACKERS CUT SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE 75% - Baltimore packers have reduced slaughtering cattle by approximately 75 per cent of normal because they have been losing money, several stated yesterday.

The four leading packers locally have facilities to slaughter approximately 3,720 cattle weekly, but because of existing conditions are only killing about 930.

"The situation has become extremely critical in this area in the past weeks," one of the city's foremost packers said.

"The curtailment of our slaughtering has been forced upon us by the Government because it now allows retailers to slaughter their own cattle and enter competition with packers."

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From the Des Moines Register, March 12 -

THAT "FARM STRIKE" HOAX-Editorial - The vague rumors of a "farm strike" in Nebraska and nearby states, in recent weeks, have had such an illusive ring that J. S. Russell, The Register's farm editor, finally made a tour to run them down. What he heard from responsible farm leaders in those states was that the "strike" was mostly talk, with a good deal of "inspired" promotion behind it.

"The movement has no farm backing to warrant newspaper and radio publicity which has been accorded it," is his conclusion.

The quantity of national publicity this alleged farm strike got in the press and radio services was fantastic, and not very creditable to anyone. There is some anti-union feeling in midwest farm and small town areas, to be sure, but it doesn't go so far as to bite its own head off to spite the unions.

Most eastern editors and radio commentators, moreover, are pretty ignorant about farm matters...

Along came these Nebraska farm strike promoters and played them for suckers.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 20 -

LEHMAN ASKS FOOD RATIONS IN U.S. TO COMBAT FAMINE-Atlantic City-Rationing of food in short supply in this and other countries was urged today as a necessary measure to fight world famine in a special report to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council by Herbert H. Lehman, retiring director general.

Mr. Lehman thus took issue with the announced voluntary belt-tightening views of former President Herbert Hoover, now studying conditions in Europe as honorary chairman of President Truman's famine emergency committee.

"Voluntary measures alone, no matter how energetically they are pursued, are not enough," Mr. Lehman said. "They can be helpful, but, after food has moved into civilian consumption channels, it is too late to recapture it for shipment abroad."

He urged that the Government set aside foodstuffs as "absolutely essential to insure that the supplies needed will be on hand when they are needed," and said that rationing "not only is required but will be supported and appreciated by consumers" when they understand its purposes are to feed the starving abroad and insure equitable distribution at home.

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ANDERSON OPPOSES PLAN FOR RETURN OF RATIONING-Lincoln, Neb.-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson disagreed tonight with Herbert H. Lehman's plea that wartime food controls be reestablished in the United States to meet world food needs.

To Mr. Lehman's statement in Atlantic City that voluntary measures "alone are not enough," the Secretary of Agriculture replied in a statement;

"OPA has reduced its forces and consolidated its rationing boards. By the time they could be reassembled, could have cards printed, could investigate individual claimants and issue tokens or tickets, the crisis would be largely over, since this is a 120 day sprint.

"All in all, speed is essential and I would assume that we could move more quickly on the volunteer basis than by waiting for more appropriations to OPA and then setting up new rationing authorities and methods."

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GERMANS WILL GET SHARP RATION CUT-Berlin-There is only enough food in the United States occupation zone in Germany to maintain and uniformly to distribute the guaranteed minimum ration of 1,550 calories for six more days, it was learned this evening from responsible authorities.

It is a virtual certainty that either Gen. Joseph T. MacFarney or his deputy, Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay will be forced to announce a drastic ration cut this week, despite previous United States commitments to maintain the 1,550 calory level even if it was necessary to send food shipments to Germany from the United States.

(Turn to page 2 for other itmes
in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, March 20, (Cont.) -

STARVATION HELD CERTAIN IN JAPAN-Tokyo-Plans are being laid to handle the starvation conditions that are certain to arise if the Combined Food Board holds to its determination to grant Japan only 600,000 tons of food--which is less than one-fifth of what General Douglas MacArthur originally requested and about half the absolute minimum figure sent to Washington on Saturday.

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MAYOR WILL LEAD FOOD-SAVING DRIVE-Mayor O'Dwyer accepted yesterday the honorary chairmanship of the New York City Famine Emergency Committee, which is to be organized Friday under Federal sponsorship to direct a program of voluntary conservation of food.

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COTTON PRICES HOLD IN NARROW RANGE-The cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange closed yesterday unchanged to 4 points higher than on Monday, with only a small volume of business. Prices started 1 point down 2 points up and held within less than a 10-point range all day.

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GRAIN DEALS WAIT ON FEDERAL MOVES-Chicago-Trading in grain futures was light today on the Board of Trade, with brokers waiting for announcement of the Government's feed-grain conservation order and also revision of the wheat program, regarded as certain in view of the inability of the Commodity Credit Corporation to buy sufficient grain to permit maximum exports.

Active deliveries of oats futures rose $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a bushel net; July loading, while May held unchanged at the ceiling. May Rye, after being up 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents early and 10 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents above the low of last week, reacted on profit-taking and closed with a loss of 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ cents. May wheat held at the ceiling price. Corn likewise was unchanged. Barley finished unchanged to 1 cent up, with September moving to the permissible maximum price.

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COTTON MARGIN DEBATED-Washington-The Office of Price Administration asked the Department of Justice to rule whether an order requiring higher margins on cotton futures trading must bear the approval of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson.

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HOOVER IS IN PARIS FOR FOOD SURVEY-Paris-Herbert Hoover, accompanied by a staff of ten experts and assistants, reached Paris by air today to begin a survey of the world's critical food problem, which, he said, would call for sacrifices on the part of the United States and all supplying countries in the emergency of the next four months.

"Practically every country here is short of food," he said, "and the problem is essentially a problem of the next 120 days. The solution is to spread existing stocks around as best we can, so that all will have enough to survive this grave emergency."

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PACE BILL HELD THREAT TO STABILIZATION PLAN, Washington - Warning that enactment of the Pace bill would involve consequences that "would completely wreck the stabilization program," Price Administrator Paul A. Porter today set forth his objections to the bill.

In a letter to Senator Claude Pepper (Dem, Fla.), who is expected to oppose the Pace rider to the minimum wage bill now in the Senate, Mr. Porter said that farm prices would have to be increased 20 percent and retail food prices about 15 percent if the measure became law. This would set off another round of wage demands as the cost of living rose and would mean the end of the stabilization program, Mr. Porter declared.

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NATIONAL SUGAR REFINING ACTS TO DIVERSIFY ITS ACTIVITIES - In a move to broaden and diversify the company's business activities, National Sugar Refining Co., has set up a fund for the acquisition or construction of such new facilities as show promise of adding substantially to the company's income, it was disclosed yesterday in the annual report.

The directors have authorized for this purpose the earmarking from the company's cash account of \$4,000,000 and the segregation of a like amount from its earned surplus. As of December 31, earned surplus amounted to \$8,236,910.

The company and subsidiaries reported for the year ended Dec. 31, 1945, net income of \$1,399,458 after taxes and charges, equal to \$2.46 a share on the capital stock. This compares with net income of \$1,373,345 equal to \$2.41 a share in 1944. Total sales were \$104,139,806 in 1945, compared with sales of \$117,369,175 in the preceding year.

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FARM CREDIT BOARD APPROVED IN HOUSE, Washington - The House today gave overwhelming approval to legislation taking all Federal farm credit agencies from the Department of Agriculture and consolidating them under a seven-man independent board.

The bill, sent to the Senate by a 239 to 80 roll call vote, was described by its sponsors as the first step toward reducing "overlapping and conflicting provisions" under the present set-up.

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BORDEN COMPANY DENIES BLANFORD CHARGES - Dr. C. J. Blanford, administrator of the New York metropolitan milk marketing area, publicly charged yesterday that the Borden Co. has underpaid dairymen who deliver milk to its plants at Cincinnatus, Cortland County, N. Y. The underpayments, he alleges, date back to the inception of the Federal-State milk marketing orders in 1938.

The Borden Co. denies the violation and has petitioned the Secretary for an administrative hearing, stating that: "The market administrator's charge involves payment to about 700 farmers delivering milk to our plant. For more than 30 years these farmers have paid the company 3c per hundredweight for a special service rendered. The service requires a special operation of the plant to permit farmers to deliver milk twice daily instead of once a day. In this way the farmers are spared the cost of installing more expensive types of cooling equipment."

(Turn to page 4 for other items from
today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 20 (Cont.) -

ELECTRONIC TO CUT HUGE LOSS OF BREAD, Buffalo - Electronics can provide the flour-short nation with more than 150,000,000 pounds of bread now lost annually through mould, Dr. William H. Cathcart told delegates attending the annual national convention of the Institute of Food Technologists here today.

Detailing recent experiments he conducted with electronics in the food field, the 34-year-old head of A&P Food Stores' national bakery department laboratories in New York city, told how the use of high frequency heat had successfully killed mould spored in freshly baked, wrapped bread. He said the food chain would install the mould-proofing process in each of its 37 bakeries as quickly as the equipment became available.

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P.I. COCONUT OIL IMPORTS DELAYED - The rebuilding of major copra crushing plants in the Philippine Islands will depend on Philippine trade legislation due for early action by our Congress, executives in the oils trade and industry said yesterday.

No large plants destroyed during the Japanese invasion of the islands have been rebuilt. While a few small mills are crushing copra for the local trade, none has yet been crushed for export.

Top management of the crushing mills can make no decision concerning future operations in the Philippines until Congress has enacted laws which will govern longterm trade with the islands, it was pointed out. If duties are imposed on imported coconut oil from the Philippines and copra from the islands is admitted free, crushing operations in the islands might not be advantageous, it was declared.

Copra imports are increasing. It is estimated that exports this month from the Philippines for the United States will total about 18,000 tons. February exports were 11,788 tons and January shipments 8,342 tons and January shipments 8,342 tons, according to the most recent report of the Copra Export Management Co.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 20 -

GREAT LAKES SHIPPERS WILL NOT RUSH SEASON, Cleveland - Great Lakes shippers are not going to rush the season this year, as they did all through the war.

The ice is disappearing from northern lake waters. Seasonally speaking, the time is almost here for some 300 freighters of the bulk fleet to get under way with their cargoes of ore and coal.

Last year, by contrast, navigation got under way the first week in April on the great chain of inland waterways often called the raw material assembly line for American industry. Then, as now, the weather was good and the ice had deteriorated. But at that time war demands were urgent.

Coal and grain are the other big commodities--besides ore--which are moved on the Great Lakes.

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From The Baltimore Sun, March 19 -

NEW-FLOUR BREAD SURPRISES BAKERS-Members of the Retail Bakers Association of Baltimore last night agreed that local housewives will receive a pleasant surprise around April 1 when the bakers begin producing bread and cakes with the new flour decreed by the Federal Government as a means of saving wheat with which to feed Europe's starving population.

The bakers themselves were surprised when, meeting at 1212 Cathedral street, they were introduced to samples of cakes baked with the new flour.

They handled jelly rolls, sponge cakes, pound cakes, layer cakes and the like with the same finesse as a bibliophile examining a rare old volume.

They were delighted with the texture, the weight, the color -- especially the color -- and the entire content of the cakes which had been baked yesterday.

Louis Weidman, a research expert in flour, explained the cakes were of the same high ratio as those baked with the old flour -- known to the trade as white flour.

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From New York Herald Tribune, March 19 -

FRANCE TO SEEK HOOVER AID ON WHEAT INCREASE-Paris, (UP)-- France will appeal to Herbert Hoover, who is to arrive here tomorrow, for an increase in American wheat exports to France, official sources disclosed today.

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From Pennsylvania Farmer, March 9 -

TOO LOW A CEILING, Editorial, Whatever is done to improve the difficult feed situation will amount to little as long as ceiling prices are below the level justified by existing conditions. That ceiling prices have been and are being widely ignored is common knowledge, even if evidence valid in court is not to be had. There are sundry evasions as in barter which present regulations do not cover or on which no final decisions have been made. Also there is one evasion that is according to the rules and interferes with the normal movement of corn, the most important of the feeds so much needed now. That is the rule which allows corn to be sold at a higher price in less than carlot quantities than in carlots. So the truckers get the corn for not distant use and feeders far from surplus corn don't get it.

In the face of a ceiling price that does not move the corn, that creates a black market in it, interferes with the normal distribution of it, and deprives distant feeders of it, OPA persistently holds to a price below what would be the normal price in open market trading. Our price adjusters should be adjusters in fact, and should make adjustments promptly.

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OUR DAILY BREAD, Editorial, The regulation that compels our millers to make 80 pounds of flour from 100 pounds of wheat is below the rate required by 14 other nations. Most of them require 85 per cent or more. In France the percentage is 90-95 and in Russia 80-96, the last named figure also in South Africa. In some nations other grains, rye, barley and corn, can be mixed with wheat. If the bread-hungry people of the world can live on such bread as their flour makes why should we worry about what we have to eat if it helps to save them from starvation?

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From Pennsylvania Farmer, March 9 -

WAGES AND PRICES, Editorial, The wages in packing plants sized by the government were advanced 16¢ per hour. Then the packers were allowed to charge 45¢ per 100 pounds more for beef, veal and lamb meats and 55¢ per 100 pounds more for pork. These advances apply to overall dressed carcass weights. That figures out, according to official calculations, 1.5 per cent advance in the retail price of meats, probably more than that when the consumer buys. If the same plan is to be applied to all production affected by wage advances that will mean an increase in the cost of living. If it is not applied it will mean lack of production, or the production of inferior articles at the fixed prices, which is the equivalent of higher prices. And this will mean more demands for higher wages, more strikes and heavier losses for everybody. No matter by what name we call this "circular insanity" it is not a pleasant thing to contemplate.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 17 -

LACK OF INFORMATION COSTLY TO COTTON PRODUCERS-The March harvest of 1945 cotton has brought out the woeful lack of information many farmers have of market conditions and prices for their product.

Instances have been reported within the past two weeks where farmers were satisfied to take 10 cents a pound for their low-grade cotton, when the price on the Memphis market ranged from 13 to 14 cents.

In one case, the local buyer raised his price to 12 cents after a visiting buyer began offering that price for the cotton. Some of the cotton in question was of good staple, fairly clean, but the blue-gray color. It was selling at nearly 18 cents at Memphis at the time.

With the Government providing market information under the Smith-Doxey Act, with newspapers available with daily quotations of approximate prices, there is no reason why the farmer should take a flat price for his cotton without submitting it to a competitive market, and knowing that he is getting a fair price.

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From The Produce Packer, March 16 -

FEED ORDER UPSETTING TO POULTRYMEN-Yakima, Wash., -- The drastic reduction by the government in the use of wheat and protein for the feeding of poultry and stock has caused unsettled conditions, particularly in the poultry industry in the Yakima valley and other producing districts of the state of Washington.

The announcement by the government that the feed directive had been modified so wheat may be used up to 85 per cent of the amount in the corresponding month of last year has been regarded as a substantial relief from the order that would have restricted the use down to 60 per cent by June, but dealers in feeds and growers are still uncertain as to the interpretation of the amended order.

The immediate effect is a reduction of 15 per cent in the production of eggs and poultry, but feed manufacturers and hatcherymen assert that the reduction will be at least 25 per cent. In the last 30 days, many of the smaller laying flocks in the Yakima valley have been liquidated, and reports are coming from the coast saying that many hatcheries have no eggs in their incubators. Orders for chicks received by hatcheries in the Yakima valley are far below those of a year ago, but orders from Idaho, Montana and eastern Washington are somewhat better.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 21 -

GREATER SHORTAGE IN MEAT FORECAST-Chicago-With receipts of all kinds of live-stock running far behind normal in Western meat centers, traders at the Chicago Stockyards are pessimistic over the prospects for any improvement in the country's meat supply, and many expect the situation to become worse before it improves.

Leading packers are largely "out of the market" for beef cattle in an effort to keep average prices down and protect their subsidy.

The quality of both cattle and hogs reaching the country's markets is expected to be poor in the near future, due to the unwillingness of the farmers to feed to a finish, as a result of which the average weight per animal is off considerably from the recent high and "dress out" less meat.

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HOOVER STUDIES TOLL OF INFANTS IN FRANCE-Paris-Herbert Hoover, after consultation with President Felix Gouin, Foreign Minister Georges Bidault and other French officials today, took special interest in infant mortality and undernourishment along the displaced and impoverished classes of France.

He decided to prolong his survey for the World Famine Committee here and will devote the whole of tomorrow to investigations. He goes to Rome Friday.

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HOPE IS SEEN THAT RUSSIA CAN SUPPLY UNRRA WHEAT-Atlantic City-Hope that Russia soon will supply wheat to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was expressed at today's session here of the UNRRA Council by William L. Clayton, Assistant Secretary of State and United States member of the council.

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HAMBURG MOBS LOOT SHOPS AS WOMEN LEAD FOOD RIOT-Hamburg, Germany (UP)-Food riots--led by women--have broken out in famine-threatened Hamburg and British military police took emergency precautions today to keep them in check. The riots started thirty-six hours ago and are continuing this evening. Provision shops and railroad cars have been looted. In several instances women have led storming parties.

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INDIA'S FOOD ENVOY HOPEFUL OF U.S. AID-Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, head of the India Food Mission to the United States, left for home yesterday afternoon by Clipper from the Marine Terminal at La Guardia Field with a promise that a substantial part of India's minimum needs of 2,000,000 tons of cereal would be delivered.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, March 21 (Cont.) -

BRAZIL IN BREAD CRISIS-Rio De Janeiro-Wheatflour and wheat stocks in Brazil will insure the bread supply only until April 15, it was disclosed here today following a wide survey of the situation.

Worse still, wheat or wheatflour shipments from Buenos Aires are uncertain.

The only salvation, according to the survey, is the arrival from the United States of sufficient wheat flour to tide the country over until Argentina can send wheat.

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ACTIVITY SLACKENS IN GRAIN MARKETS-Chicago-Oats had an easy undertone today on the Board of Trade, with the active deliveries off $3/8$ to $5/8$ cent a bushel. May held at the ceiling. Rye was unsettled within a range of $2\ 3/8$ cents but gained $5/8$ cent net, rallying in the last minute of trading. One sale of September barley was reported made at the ceiling, but no sales were reported in wheat, corn or the deferred deliveries of rye.

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LATE SALES MARK COTTON FUTURES-Cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange were irregular yesterday, closing 7 points lower to 5 points higher than on Tuesday. Steadiness prevailed early. The market opened 2 to 4 points up and rose to gains of 10 to 16 points on Southern mill buying.

Late selling, especially in near months, was due to a report in the trade that the Office of Price Administration would issue an order calling for higher margins on speculative futures accounts, except hedges.

It was reported that China was in the market for 25,000 bales of cotton from both private and government stock.

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HOUSEWIVES FIND SHOPS FLOURLESS; DARKER 'EMERGENCY' TYPE DELAYED-Delays in delivery of the new "emergency" flour to retail grocers made it virtually impossible yesterday for housewives to buy flour in New York City.

Retail stores have sold all their white flour and the slightly darker wheat flour of 80 per cent extraction is not expected to be on shop shelves until the end of the month. Some shipments of "emergency" flour have arrived from the mills but they have gone to commercial bakers.

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HARVEST OFFERS 18 CENTS PAY RISE-Chicago-The International Harvester Company offered to its 24,000 employees today immediate wage increases of 18 cents an hour if they would end their strike, withdrawing a prior stipulation that price relief be promised or granted by the Government before the increase could become effective.

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'MAP' EASED TO SPUR CLOTHING OUTPUT-Washington-The Office of Price Administration liberalized today its much-protested Maximum Average Price order as the regulation applies to several categories of men's, women's and children's apparel.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 21 -

GRAIN PRICE RISES LOOM IN WHEAT EXPORT PROGRAM, Washington - The Administration may be driven to the expedient of raising grain prices in order to bring wheat off the farms as the Government's foreign relief wheat program shows signs of failing to meet March and April shipment goals.

Although Government officials who are directly concerned with the program, decline to state publicly that they are considering a substantial price increase for corn and wheat, privately some of them now admit that restrictions and limitations which have so far been ordered fail to attack the core of the problem--getting wheat off the farms.

Great reliance is being placed on a patriotic appeal to farmers to sell their wheat so that people abroad do not starve. The drastic slowdown in wheat offerings for export over the past week are explained away by the fact that road conditions in the Dakotas are bad....

Nevertheless, some officials contend that the export goals cannot be met unless feeding operations are cut back, and add that the only way to effectively reduce feeding is to raise corn prices to the point where it is more profitable to sell than to feed....

High officials at the Department of Agriculture, Office of Economic Stabilization, Office of Price Administration and the special famine committee now deny that they are seriously considering a boost in grain prices.

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SENTIMENT GROWS FOR POOLING FOOD SUPPLIES, Atlantic City - The world's mounting food crisis is rapidly crystallizing opinion here, at UNRRA's fourth council meeting that all world food supplies must be forced into a common pool from which nations may share-and-share-alike.

All supplying nations--which may include many Latin Americans and some neutrals, such as Sweden and Switzerland--are being considered, by the USSR is foremost on the list.

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FRUIT JUICE 'CANDY' MAY CUT SURPLUS, Buffalo, N. Y. - Powdered orange juice and fruit juice that can be eaten like candy were two products described today at the sixth annual conference of the Institute of Food Technologists. Prof. E. M. Kenyon of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology described the experiments with powdered orange juice and expressed belief that commercial production was feasible...

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OPA PROBES CATTLE PINCH IN MIDWEST, Kansas City - An OPA investigation of the steadily dwindling supply of slaughter steers in Midwest packing houses began today, as the sharp reduction in beef supplies threatened meat supplies over the nation.

Reports that a heavy volume of cattle on Midwestern markets went to Eastern bidders, while Midwestern packers were able to purchase only a fraction of supply necessary to keep their plants operating were being investigated by four OPA representatives from the district office. One company reported it was able to buy only seven cattle yesterday. Usually it handles more than 700.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

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Farm Digest 595-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 21 - (Cont.) -

PMA SEEKS MORE FLOUR FOR EXPORT - PMA is in the market for 89,600 sacks of emergency Pacific Coast export flour enriched for April delivery to Pacific ports with purchases scheduled by midnight March 27.

This is in addition to the 2,100,000 sacks which the same Government agency is attempting to purchase for UNRRA this week.

Export business through regular trade channels has been hampered by inability to obtain export licenses for many countries and the uncertain wheat supply but it was reported that further fairly sizable quantities have been sold to France during the past few days. At the moment France is the only country empowered to purchase on a large scale but the pentup demand is described as very heavy and, granted adequate wheat supplies and export licenses, it is believed that mills could operate at peak levels for the balance of the crop year.

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FOOD MEN DEMAND ACTION ON BUTTER - Members of the New York State Food Merchants Association, representing over 4,500 independent retail food stores are asking their customers to join them in petitioning Congress for increased butter production.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 21 -

FOOD FOR THE STARVING - Editorial - Herbert H. Lehman, retiring director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, has described in specific terms the appalling food shortage in Europe and great parts of Asia. He leaves no room for doubt that unless the western hemisphere countries send food-laden ships in time, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children must soon starve to death....

Because the season's harvests are on the way the food-producing countries can safely reduce their carryover stocks far below normal proportions. There will be no serious objection to the government setting aside for U.N.R.R.A.'s use suitable proportions of foodstuffs coming to the primary markets. It should at the same time do whatever it can to encourage food production this year and to assure the farmer the equipment he needs. It can accomplish more in these ways for the feeding of a hungry world than by attempting control of the consumer's daily purchases.

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FREIGHT RATES REDUCED ON MEAT AND PRODUCTS, Washington - The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered reductions in freight rates on fresh meats and packing house products shipped from the South to the East and New England. Terming the present rates "unreasonable and unduly prejudicial," the Commission directed the railroads to establish the new rates on or before June 14.

The new tariffs generally correspond to those from the Middle West to the so-called official territory, or that area lying generally east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River and a line drawn roughly from Cincinnati, O., to Norfolk, Va.

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From New York Herald Tribune, March 20 -

FEDERAL SEIZURE URGED; Farmers Say Harvester Strikes Impede Food Production
Washington, (UP)--Federal seizure of strike-bound farm equipment manufacturing plants and California canneries was urged tonight to help assure maximum production of food for this country and starving nations.

Mid-Western representatives of the National Farmers Union threatened political reprisals if President Truman does not take immediate steps to get production resumed at International Harvester Co. plants, producers of 60 per cent of the nation's farm machinery.

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From The Utah Farmer, March 10 -

A RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR FARMERS, Editorial, The Agriculture Committee on National Policy of the National Planning Association recently made public a report entitled, "A Retirement System For Farmers," in which an old-age, survivors' and disability insurance program for farm people was proposed.

A University of California agricultural economics professor, Murray R. Benedict, prepared the report in which he points out that the principal reasons farmers were excluded from coverage in the social security legislation was the fear that the administration of such a program would be too difficult. However, since that time many of the problems of administration have been eliminated and now the committee believes that the plan which Professor Benedict has outlined "would be workable and would be understood and welcomed by farm people."

Perhaps now that some of our leading economists are working on the problem some tangible results will be obtained. Farmers and farmers' employees have always needed such a program. The farm people face the same dangers of insecurity and want in old age as the workers in industry and commerce who are now covered by federal social security legislation.

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From The Commercial Appeal, March 17 -

REDUCED BUTTER MANUFACTURE PLUS COTTONSEED OIL SHORTAGE ROB TABLES OF MARGARINE--Why is it that in Memphis, the world's greatest cotton center, it is now difficult and sometimes impossible to buy a pound of oleomargarine, whose chief ingredient is cottonseed oil?

A reporter seeking the answer to this question yesterday found several things:

1. The greatly reduced manufacture of butter has brought about a tremendous increase in the demand for oleomargarine.

2. Late picking of cotton, due to bad weather and labor shortage, has caused a huge decrease in the production of cottonseed oil--only 2,671,178 tons crushed since last Aug. 1 as against 3,132,771 tons in the same period a year ago-- and much of this seed, having suffered from long exposure to the weather in fields, is deficient in oil-producing qualities.

3. The war in the Pacific cut off importations of cocoanut oil from the Philippines and other islands, which have not yet been resumed, with the result that a large portion of America's cotton-seed oil production is now being used in the manufacture of paints and varnishes--for which cocoanut oil was formerly used.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 18 -

A. & P. MONOPOLY SUIT REED FIGHT ON INTEGRATION, Danville, Ill., March 17 (Special) -- When oral arguments start April 3 in the government's criminal antitrust suit against the New York Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company, the year long trial will center on the question whether large business enterprises may "vertically integrate" their numerous operations.

Briefs filed with United States District Judge Walter C. Lindley by both sides have made a principal issue of the legality of business organizations in which manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing are under one control. With its voluminous evidence, which it began presenting last April 16, the government charges that A. & P. used its system of "vertical integration to coerce systematic discriminatory buying preferences."

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From The St. Louis Post Dispatch, March 17 -

WHILE MILLIONS BEG FOR BREAD WE WASTE ONE-FIFTH AS MUCH FOOD AS WE EAT, by Virginia Irwin, While five hundred million people in all parts of the world walk down hunger lane and stare into the face of that favorite among war's campfollowers, famine, American garbage pails bulge at the seams and spill over at the top. While children in Europe and Asia beg for bread, America wastes one-fifth as much food as she eats and dines in comparative gluttony on 3300 calories a day.

What right have we to waste while our friends and allies over the world perish from hunger? What right have we to three-layer cakes, two-crust pies and crusttrimmed toast while the world faces famine among a half-billion people? Is it anything but selfishness that has caused consternation among some housewives over the request by President Truman's famine emergency committee that we of America cut our wheat consumption 40 per cent and eat 20 per cent less fats?

Although the President's committee has no legal powers to enforce its recommendations, it is to be hoped that the housewives of America realize their moral obligation to co-operate.

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From St. Pioneer Press, March 17 -

WISCONSIN FARMERS FAVOR FEEDING FORMER ENEMIES, Racine, Wis. (UP) -- Wisconsin farmers are willing to let the starving inhabitants of former enemy nations, as well as Allies, share American food supplies, a survey by the Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer shows.

Eighty-four per cent of those canvassed in the survey favored sending part of the United States food production to Europe, 5 per cent opposed such a move and 11 per cent were undecided.

Fifty-seven per cent of the men who responded to the survey and 61 per cent of the women voted in favor of letting former enemy and ally nationalities share equally in food from the United States.

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314 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 22 -

LA GUARDIA IS NOMINATED TO BE NEW UNRRA HEAD-Atlantic City-New York's former Mayor, Fiorello H. La Guardia, was nominated today to be director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Mr. La Guardia's nomination, which originated with the policy-directing Central Committee, was placed before the full council meeting by Herbert H. Lehmann, retiring UNRRA director.

Although the vote of Mr. La Guardia will not be taken until late next week, when the meeting is scheduled to end, nomination by the Central Committee is regarded as tantamount to election.

It will be his tremendous task to finish out UNRRA's emergency relief and rehabilitation role in a world suddenly aware of famine.

PORTER SEES SOME HIGHER PRICES BUT NOT IN RENTS, FOOD OR CLOTHING-Chicago-Several price adjustments, taking into account higher material and labor costs but leaving "rents, food and clothing and the basic cost of living at or near present levels," will be announced in a day or two from Washington, Paul Porter, Price Administrator, said here today.

At a press conference and later before a gathering of 1,000 at a luncheon of the Association of Commerce, he made these assertions:

The Office of Price Administration is expected to complete its work and "get out from under" in a year.

The OPA and other Government agencies concerned are mobilizing to smash the black markets in lumber and meat.

New automobile prices, raising the cost by \$2 to \$65 will be made public in a few days.

A new procedure to handle without delay requests for price adjustment will soon be announced.

Mr. Porter said that the difficulty with the black market in meat was "not too much but too little OPA."

He declared that "a very much expanded program of control will be adopted."

AUSTRIA SEES FOOD USED FOR POLITICS-Vienna-The International politics of southeastern Europe are becoming more and more a matter of food and how long the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration can maintain its aloofness from politics accordingly is doubtful. In the course of the next ten days, for instance, it must be decided whether the UNRRA is to feed the whole of Austria or only the zones occupied by the western powers, leaving the Soviet Union to assume responsibility for the zone its soldiers occupy and off which they are living.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

From The New York Times, March 22 - (Cont.)

FOOD SAVING EFFORT STARTING HERE TODAY-The city's part in the nations food-conservation program to provide relief for war-devastated countries overseas will get under way at 2 p.m. today, when the New York City Famine Emergency Committee, with Mayor O'Dwyer serving as honorary chairman, will be officially set up under Federal guidance.

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COTTON PRICES UP BY 13 TO 20 POINTS-Cotton futures were firmer yesterday on the New York Cotton Exchange as the trade increased buying operations at a time when hedge selling was diminishing. Final prices showed net gains of 13 to 20 points. The market started with gains of 6 to 10 points and had a steady tone all day.

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HOPE OF OPA CURB IS A SPUR TO OATS-Chicago-Active deliveries of oats moved up 1 to 1 1/4 cents a bushel early today on the Board of Trade, largely on short covering induced by what traders regarded as a more favorable prospect of the control by the Office of Price Administration over farm commodities being restricted if not eliminated after June 30. May rye was up 1 3/4 cents a bushel at one time, but the upturn brought in profit-taking and all grains reacted quickly. Closing trades in oats were at net gains of 3/8 to 5/8 cent and May rye was up 3/8 cent. May wheat, corn and oats sold at ceiling prices, but there was interest in the other deliveries of wheat, corn, rye or barley.

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USE OF REA'S FUNDS BY UTILITY OPPOSED-Hudson, Wis.-Legality of the proposed use of funds of the Rural Electrification Administration by the new Badger Electric Cooperative of Amery, Wis., for the purchase of the Wisconsin Hydro Electric Company, a private utility, was questioned yesterday by G. H. Bell of Madison, attorney for the village of Shell Lake.

Mr. Bell raised the point at a hearing conducted by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission on the proposed purchase of the utility company by the cooperative for \$3,649,000. He pointed out that the cooperative planned to serve customers other than its members.

"This is probably the most important case of this kind ever to come before the commission," Mr. Bell said. "It raises the question of legality of obtaining these funds from the Federal Government."

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From New York Herald Tribune, March 22 -

NO SOVIET GRAIN FOR FRANCE: U.S. CALLS OFF SHIPS-Washington (UP)--Russia has no grain immediately available to back up its reported offer of 600,000 tons to France, it was disclosed today. The offer was announced recently by Maurice Thorez, French Communist leader.

The War Shipping Administration, which had assigned ships to move the grain supposed to have been on hand--500,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of barley--consequently has ordered the vessels to wait no longer in the Russian Black Sea ports where they would have loaded.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 22 -

OES, OPA OPPOSE GRAIN CEILING RISE, Washington - Confronted with a tentative proposal by the Pace committee that grain price ceilings be raised sharply, representatives of the Office of Economic Stabilization and the Office of Price Administration today countered with the suggestion that additional subsidy funds be provided.

Meeting in executive session this morning, the Pace committee had before it representatives of OES, OPA and the Department of Agriculture. Several committee members made the point, it was learned, that the only thing that would bring grain off the farms is a substantial price increase.

It was at this point that OES and OPA suggested that the increased price recommended be taken up by providing additional subsidy money. The Department of Agriculture officials, it was disclosed, held out for raising the prices without providing a subsidy.

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HARVESTER STRIKE SETTLEMENT NEAR, Chicago - International Harvester Co. officials today said they had reached an agreement with representatives of 30,000 striking CIO United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers on an 18c an hour wage boost proposal, but asserted the strike has not been settled.

The company asked the strikers to return to their jobs at the same rate of pay in effect when the strike began Jan. 21, with the 18c increase to be retroactive to the date of such return, if and when it is approved by the Wage Stabilization Board.

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FRENCH FOOD SEEN AMPLE BY AUTUMN, Paris - Herbert Hoover said tonight that with a fair harvest "France will be on her feet as to food," but in the next critical four months she must have the undiminished help of the western world.

"Since July of last year," he said, "France has imported for herself and North Africa about 2,600,000 tons of wheat, Of this about 2,300,000 tons have come from the United States, with most of the balance coming from Canada."

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SUGAR ORDERED INTO WAREHOUSE - While there is plenty of sugar on the docks in Atlantic ports, some of which is being ordered into warehouse retail outlets in Eastern areas are slow in restocking their shelves, trade sources report.

The current condition is attributed to the following two reasons: 1. Many of the wholesale and retail outlets were given the opportunity to restock depleted inventories but failed to take advantage of the opportunity, fearing that if they tipped their hand that stocks were low they would invite inspection from the OPA enforcement division. 2. Many wholesalers reportedly are losing interest or at least are becoming indifferent to stocking sugar supplies because of the narrow markup permitted. Four percent, it is reported, is too small to allow for the higher trucking and in and out handling charges, interest on money, bookkeeping charges and breakage.

Of course, there is a steady flow of sugar into channels that have available ration evidence; but the ration evidence is slow in coming into circulation.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) - - -

Farm Digest 605-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 22 (Cont.) -

FRACTIONAL UPTURNS IN GRAIN FUTURES - While many traders were inclined to discount the importance of farmers' intentions to plant as a market factor some bullish sentiment was generated by the indication that the corn acreage will fall well below the Government goal and prices generally maintained a steady to firm undertone at Chicago.

Wider circulation of the report that British had been granted export licenses on a quantity of rye, variously estimated at 800,000 to slightly more than 1,000,000 bushels, brought in early buying which carried the May delivery about 2c higher and realizing sales materially reduced the gain during late dealings.

The intended oats acreage was also somewhat below trade expectations but well above average and trading was light, with scattered short covering and buying by cash interest forcing fractional advances in the deferred contracts.

The disappointing corn acreage was attributed to the unsatisfactory ceiling price and many market observers were of the opinion that it would be considerably expanded if adequate price rises or other incentives are provided before the seeding season starts, a possibility which appeared far from remote in view of the necessity for encouraging increased marketings.

Reports from Canada indicated that farmers there may plant a somewhat larger wheat acreage than proposed by the Government.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 22 -

SUBSIDIES WILL BE TAKEN FROM SLAUGHTERERS WHO VIOLATE CATTLE CEILINGS - Washington, Economic Stabilization Director Chester Bowles announced a plan for automatically withholding subsidy payments from slaughterers who report payments for live cattle which exceed ceiling prices. This move was taken in an attempt to curb black market meat operations.

Mr. Bowles directed the Reconstruction Finance Corp. to withhold at the following rates:

(1) 10% of the subsidy will be withheld when the slaughterer's cattle costs exceed the maximum permissible costs by no more than one-fourth of 1%; (2) 30% will be withheld between one-quarter and 1% and 2%, and (3) 60% between 1% and 2%, and (4) the entire subsidy when the cost exceeds the maximum by more than 2%.

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O.P.A. PRICE INCREASE EXPECTED RYE BREAD BAKERS - Bakers of rye bread may expect their long-delayed price increase to be authorized today by the Office of Price Administration. The O.P.A. promised price relief.... because bakers were squeezed between rigid bread ceilings and an uncontrolled rye market. Rye is due to come under price control June 1.

From Chicago Journal of Commerce, March 13 -

ASSOCIATION BACKS MOVE TO LIFT ALL DAIRY PRICE CURBS-The American Dairy Association reported yesterday that a state-by-state poll showed the directors were "in general agreement" with recommendations made to Congress by a special House committee investigating food shortages. The recommendations included: Shifting of production, price and distribution control over milk and dairy products from the OPA to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Raising butter price ceilings immediately in the amount necessary "to bring butter prices in line with prices of cream and other dairy products."

Removal of all price ceilings on dairy products not later than the Spring of 1947, with an end to dairy subsidy payments not later than Dec. 31, 1946. Immediate raising of price ceilings on evaporated milk. The association said it represented 5,000,000 dairy farmers in a year-round promotion, advertising and merchandising program.

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From The Union, Manchester, N. H., March 20 -

HOLMAN BLASTS DAIRY CONTROLS, Washington, - - Asking for the abolition of dairy price controls and subsidy payments on June 30, Charles W. Holman, secretary of the National Cooperative Milk Producers federation, told the House banking and currency committee today that OPA price controls are dooming the nation to a famine in milk and dairy products.

Holman charged that the administration's program is wrecking production on countless dairy farms, and that provisions of the price control law requiring ceiling adjustments to cover increased costs "have been deliberately flouted by the price administration with the help of certain officials in other branches of the government." He declared that: "1--OPA's arbitrary price lines are rapidly breaking down as a result of gross maladjustments in price relationships between different dairy products. "2--Black markets in butter are rampant. 3--High supplies of milk are being imported into metropolitan areas at prices higher than those allowed to local farmers. "4--Consumers in these markets are being served all manner of reconstituted, recombined and simulated milks instead of receiving adequate supplies of fresh, unaltered, healthful milk from local producers. "5--Consumers in general are unable to buy the kinds of dairy products they want in the quantities they want."

Holman branded subsidies as fundamentally dishonest "because they deliberately create the delusion that the cost of food is being kept down." He declared that their real intent is to keep farmers in political bondage "with a government paymaster in every county seat in the nation."

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From The Times-Picayune, March 19 -

GROWERS PICK NINE CARLOADS OF STRAWBERRIES-Hammond, La., -- The strawberry crop made a lunge today and under bright skies the growers picked nine cars, increasing the season's total to 19 cars. The first run of the Crimson Flier, exclusive strawberry train, was made tonight from Ponchatoula north, picking up cars there, here and at Independence.

Today's movement called for the OPA ceiling of 23 cents per pint. Agencies say there will be no difficulty in disposing of quality berries at ceiling, despite the fact that New Orleans consumers are debating what price per pint to pay.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 9 -

MILK DELIVERY THREATENED BY BOTTLE CRISIS-Home delivery of milk and cream will be curtailed sharply within two weeks unless an acute shortage of glass and paper containers is relieved, dairies reported yesterday.

Deliveries to stores already have been curtailed. One concern cut its store shipments 5 per cent yesterday. Other dairies have placed storekeepers on an allotment system for milk and milk products which are delivered in paper and glass containers.

Further reductions in deliveries will occur from day to day, Harry L. Gormley, executive secretary of the Associated Milk Dealers, said.

"The shortage of milk bottles, both paper and glass," he said, "has been growing for some time. Now, with strikes in some of the plants which furnish paper bottles, the situation has become acute. Lack of raw materials at glass bottle factories has made things even worse. There also are strikes at the plants which furnish raw materials to the glass factories."

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 20 -

CHARGE FRENCH LET U. S. FOOD, CLOTHING ROT-Paris, -- Four hundred eighty tons of clothing collected in the United States and shipped to France last spring lie ruined by rats, moths, and dampness in warehouses of Entre Aide Francaise, the newspaper Aurore said today.

Aurore accused Francis Billoux, minister of reconstruction, and Robert Prigent, minister of public health, of neglecting the mass of the French people, who are homeless because of war time bombing and battles, and of not even bothering to distribute thousands of tons of foodstuffs and garments allocated or contributed to them.

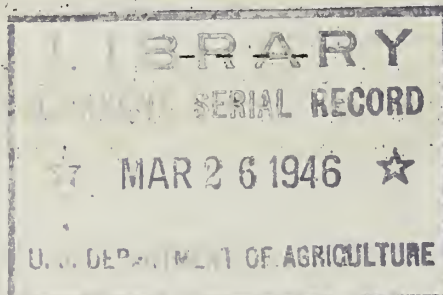
The newspaper challenged the government to produce a single war sufferer who obtained benefits from the Entre Aide Francaise organization and cites huge stocks of rice turned moldy, tons of honey spilled, and lentils, biscuits, and jams tossed into sewers because they were ruined.

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From The Topeka Daily Capital, March 19 -

ONLY REAL WEALTH COMES FROM SOIL, BLAKE DECLARES-"The only real new wealth in this country is not that which passes from hand to hand, but comes direct from the soil. The sooner people of the cities realize this, the sooner we will have national prosperity and real unity of purpose," Henry S. Blake, general manager of Capper Publications, declared last night.

Blake urged co-operation between the farmers and business men and urged better understanding between the city and country as a means of reaching better unity of purpose. "There's no bug under the chip," he said. "We of the city are realizing that until the farmer is prosperous the city cannot grow and progress."



Farm Digest 605-46-6

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 25 -

'WHEATLESS' DAYS BY U.S. ORDER URGED-A return to the "wheatless" days of World War I, with Federal enforcement, was proposed yesterday by Paul Henkel, chairman of the restaurant division of the New York City Famine Emergency Committee.

More grain would be saved if all public eating places were forbidden to serve wheat products one day each week, Mr. Henkel said. He declared that restaurants would cooperate in the present voluntary program of conservation, which permits them to serve less bread and rolls and to reduce their serving of salad dressing and oils without lowering their prices for meals, but expressed belief that many persons would demand full servings.

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LEHMAN PROPOSALS DRAWN FOR UNRRA-Atlantic City-A drafting subcommittee of representatives of eleven countries was hard at work here tonight putting into final form Director General Herbert H. Lehman's proposed resolution for the strictest world-wide food control, which it will present tomorrow to the council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

An UNRRA spokesman said the resolution would follow in the main the Lehman proposals, with some modifications suggested by various nations to take into account special hardship situations. Under this measure the council would recommend that all the United Nations Governments, including those not members of UNRRA (Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria) should put into effect at the earliest possible date a long list of food-stretching and production-stimulating measures.

Conservation of food in every form would be urged by elimination of all waste diversion of maximum possible amounts of corn, barley and oats from animal to human foods, curtailment of grain for beverages, adoption of an 85 per cent milling extraction ratio for both wheat and rye and diversion of fats from paints and soaps to food.

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CANNING SUGAR RUSH HIT-Washington-Housewives rushing out to buy canning sugar months before there is any fruit to can are about to "upset the applecart" of OPA's sugar distribution plan, officials revealed tonight.

OPA says that if the housewives will wait till the canning season starts wherever they live, the sugar will be on hand when they need it. There is plenty to redeem all the stamps.

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COTTON PRICES UP TO 27-CENT LEVEL-Following a two-week setback, cotton prices recovered sharply last week and at the week end all active contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange again had reached the level of 27 cents a pound. At the close on Saturday active futures on the Exchange were up 40 to 69 points from the close of the previous week.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Cont., March 25 -

GRAIN TRADING IN CHICAGO-~~Chicago~~-Trading in grain futures on the Board of Trade last week was small sales aggregating 64,887,000 bushels or a daily average of about 10,800,000. The latter compared with 15,900,000 bushels the previous week and 21,700,000 a year ago. Most of the trade was in May rye and the deferred deliveries of oats, both of which showed substantial declines in price in the week.

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NO CUT NOW SEEN IN WHEAT PRICES-~~Chicago~~-There will be no low prices for wheat for several years in the opinion of the best-posted cash grain interests here, regardless of the size of the 1946 world crop, unless there are decidedly unforeseen developments.

The main point made by the experts is that the world reservestock of wheat, rye and a majority of other grains is near the point of extinction as an aftermath of the war in Europe and the Far East, which will necessitate the harvesting of above normal crops for several years before it can be said there is no longer danger of hunger.

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BROSPECTS GLOOMY FOR CANNED FOODS-~~Chicago~~-Food retailers face further curtailment of supplies of canned fruits and vegetables within the next thirty days and progressive pressure may be felt until the 1946 packs become available, marketing experts predicted last week. In fact self-imposed rationing throughout the canning industry was considered likely during the coming season on many canned items.

While some wholesalers established a policy early in the 1945 season of distributing available stocks of canned fruits and vegetables among all of their customers on a pro rata basis, allocations now are being trimmed to meet the requirements of dwindling stocks, a check of distributors revealed. Cannery were reported to have shipped all stocks of canned goods and available supplies are now in the hands of distributors and retailers.

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COFFEE SUBSIDY-Editorial-Last November a subsidy of three cents a pound was announced for coffee. This was supposed to be a temporary subsidy which would end March 31. Now it is announced that this subsidy will be extended until June 30 and that the additional cost will not exceed \$30,000,000. This subsidy is designed to prevent a rise in the price of coffee which would otherwise take place because foreign producers have refused to ship coffee to this country at the present prices. It seems probable that if the present policies are continued we will be faced with a further extension of these subsidies after June 30.

Interestingly enough, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics the price of coffee is substantially lower than it was in 1926, a year frequently used for long-term comparisons. Although the index of all food prices is now slightly higher than it was in 1926, coffee prices are 39 per cent lower. It is difficult to understand how a rise in the price of coffee of three or four cents a pound will significantly affect the cost of living.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 25 -

OPA WILL BROADEN INCENTIVE PRICING FOR COTTON GOODS, Washington - Incentive pricing on a long list of items given cotton mills recently by the Office of Price Administration to induce large scale production will be further widened in the near future.

After consultation with representatives of basic trades and large users of industrial fabrics, the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Production Administration, joint sponsors of the plan, have decided that broadening of the program is desirable if the Government's objectives are to be met.

The plan calls for a 50 per cent increase in production of those fabrics most essential to industrial users and for the consumer economy. For this purpose premium prices are being allowed mills for three types of goods.

(1) Industrial and agricultural fabrics. (2) Work clothing fabrics. (3) Fabrics of importance to the low-cost clothing program.

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OPA LIFTS PRICES ON TWO TYPES OF LUMBER; INDUSTRY HITS RELIEF AS HIGHLY INADEQUATE, Washington - Under pressure from Congress, the Office of Price Administration has speeded action on a number of lumber price adjustments.

Reflecting efforts to minimize Capitol Hill criticism that the pricing agency has acted too slowly in passing upon adjustment requests, OPA over the week-end granted price increases on Western pine, on Douglas fir, and on agricultural boxes.

The increases were at once denounced by industry spokesmen as highly inadequate.

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UNIFORM MINIMUM WAGE CALLED UNFAIR TO SOUTH - "The Fair Labor Standards Act is directed against the industrially emerging South," contends John V. Van Sickle, writing on "Geographical Aspects of a Minimum Wage" in the Spring Number of the Harvard Business Review. The author is professor of economics at the Institute of Research and Training in the Social Sciences, Vanderbilt University.

Van Sickle asserts that he is not opposed to a minimum wage, but rather to a uniform minimum wage throughout the United States. He therefore proposes that minimum wages should be adjusted to the economic characteristics of our varying geographical regions.

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WILL PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE?- Editorial - The commodity price trend will be more largely determined by the trend of labor productivity than by any other single force. Sweeping increases in wage rates that are now taking place will lift labor costs per unit of output to the highest level they have ever attained. Unless productivity can be stepped up to offset these higher wages, prices will go up and remain higher.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 615-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 25 (Cont.) -

SHORTAGES CLOUD INSECTICIDE OUTLOOK - Supply of ammonium sulphate, benzol, xylol and other cokeoven by-products is again seriously threatened since it is understood that a number of plants are curtailing operations in an effort to conserve fuel should the strike in the coal industry take place early next month.

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SIFTS FERTILIZER DEMANDS FOR JAPS, Washington- Representative Thomas A. Jenkins of Ohio, chairman of the Republican Congressional Food Study Committee, today said that because of lack of a planned food program American farmers may be forced to share their fertilizer supplies this year with Japan and Germany.

"Bungling and lack of over-all direction of our food program have apparently brought us to the place where we must choose between sharing our own insufficient supplies of ammonium sulphate -- a basic ingredient-- with our former enemies, or get ready to cope with the unrest that comes when a nation is hungry," Representative Jenkins said.

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FARM PERIL SEEN IN CHEMICAL FIELD - The exploitation of farm products as raw materials for industry when such products cannot compete unsubsidized with their synthetic counterparts is dangerous to sound market expansion, Dr. Norman A. Shepard, chemical director, American Cyanamid Co., said over the week-end.

The continued production of an agricultural commodity on a large scale, or in increased volume, regardless of glutting the market and depressing its price through over-production must give way to the harvest of new crops for which there is great demand, he said, if the chemical industry is to advance the economic status of the farmer.

Chemists, he warned, cannot be expected to solve through research farmers' problems of surpluses by converting unprofitable overproduced items into profitable ones. The utilization of farm surpluses by industry at prohibitive costs, while justified in wartime, has no place in the economy of peace years, he said.

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FLOUR MILLS STILL RESTRICT BOOKINGS - The flour market was quiet on Saturday with most mills still restricting sales to regular customers and only for immediate needs.

This cautious selling policy was traceable to efforts of mills to bring their backlogs within inventory limitations, in view of the far from promising wheat supply outlook for the balance of the season, which has been further clouded by intimations that inventory limits may be again reduced and possibly the rate of grind through tightening up by the CCC is issuance of purchase certificates.

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From The Atlanta Constitution, March 20 -

TRUMAN DARK FLOUR ORDER DEFEATS ITS OWN PURPOSE, DECLARE MILLERS -

While Atlanta housewives were staging a small-scale run on white flour, seeking to store supplies before the government-ordered darker flour reaches grocery shelves, Atlanta millers were charging that Truman's dark flour order actually was not fulfilling its purpose -- more bread for starving people overseas.

The head of one large flour milling company here said that the program "is a terrible failure thus far." He maintained that American people are being fooled into the idea that by eating dark bread they are relieving hunger abroad, whereas no more wheat is being exported than formerly. Reasons given for the charge that the wheat relief plan is a failure are several. One frequently mentioned by millers is that the order itself will cause a large amount of waste. A miller explained:

"The order caused people to buy more of the old white flour than they actually need. With warm weather approaching, it is likely that a large amount of the hoarded flour will become rancid and filled with weevils. That, of course, is flour wasted.

"The new 80 percent flour will not keep as well as the higher grade flour. With a larger proportion of the grain in it, it has a greater amount of oil and will attract weevils."

Also explained was the fact that the higher extraction rate means a smaller amount of byproduct, which ordinarily goes to feed livestock on farms. Since he can get less byproduct, the farmer will feed his animals whole wheat grains, the source of which he controls, and thus will reduce further the wheat supply

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From The Davenport Democrat and Leader, March 19 -

ECONOMISTS WOULD DISCARD PARITY FORMULA FOR FARM PRICES; SAY IT IS OUTDATED - Ames, Ia. -- Most of the Nation's top-ranking economists would throw the parity standard out the window in setting up a sound agricultural price program, states Lauren K. Soth, editor of the Iowa Farm Economist.

Writing in the current issue of the Iowa State college magazine, Soth summarizes the 18 prize-winning papers on agricultural policy selected in the recent contest sponsored by the American Farm Economic association.

While a variety of specific programs were suggested, most of the writers agreed on three main points.

First, the parity standard, based on 1910-14 price relationships, should be discarded. Second, the government should guarantee certain minimum "forward" prices to guide farmers in production of some products. And third, the government should not make these guarantees good by means of production control or marketing quotas.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, March 16 -

A. & P. CHARGES OPA 'STALL' TIES UP SUGAR STOCK -- New York, March 15 (AP) -- Counsel for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company charged in federal District court today that what he termed "stalling tactics" on the part of the OPA were delaying distribution of 12 million pounds of sugar by the food chain, altho the OPA recently validated a ration stamp good for five pounds of sugar.

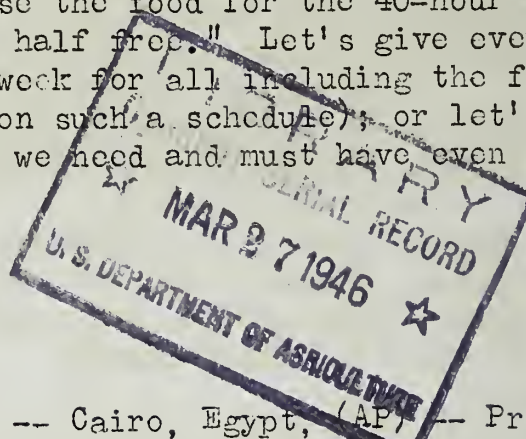
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From The Ohio Farmer, March 16 -

HALF SLAVE, HALF FREE, Editorial, Considerable to-do is being raised over the proposed bill in Congress which would extend the fair labor standards act to include dealers and retailers who serve farmers. This law would extend the 40-hour week rule right up to the farmer's front door. If he had to have repairs, supplies, or service and it happened to be after 5:00 p.m. or on Saturdays he would probably find the shop or store closed because its employees could work only eight hours a day, five days a week.

Such a law would certainly hamstring the farmer especially during the busy harvest season. When the world is so desperate for food it would be almost criminal to throw this obstruction in the path of those who must produce it. For that reason we hope the bill is killed.

However we can see no reason why some of our people should work only 40 hours a week and the farmers be expected to work 72 hours up to produce the food for them. If a piece of farm machinery is manufactured by men working only 40 hours, hauled on the railroads by 40-hour men, distributed and serviced on the same schedule, then why should the farmer be expected to take that machine and work twice as many hours to raise the food for the 40-hour workers? This nation cannot continue "half slave and half free." Let's give everybody the same privilege, either 40 hours a week for all including the farmer (paying him prices so he can make a living on such a schedule); or let's all get back to work producing the things which we need and must have even if we have to work six days a week to do it.



From The Atlanta Constitution, March 20 -

EGYPT IS OUT TO CUT ITS COTTON ACREAGE -- Cairo, Egypt, (AP) -- Premier Ismail Sidky Pasha said Tuesday that Egypt would reduce cotton acreage, establish a cotton bank and barter cotton for other materials in an effort to reduce the 1,500,000,000-pound surplus built up during the war.

From The Kansas City Times, March 20 -

A DILEMMA IN BREAD -- Retail bakers of Kansas City last night found many difficulties to compliance with the request of the Famine Emergency committee for reduction in the size and weight of bakery goods. One is that the OPA hasn't notified them that it's all right.

They went on record in favor of anything that would help keep people in Europe from starving, and pledged "the fullest co-operation possible, within the limits of baking equipment on hand, if and when authority to do so is received from the OPA."

From The Iowa Farm Register, March 20 -

EMPTY CRIBS SEEN ON TOUR--Newton, La. -- Before the next harvest, the feed situation in Jasper county will be very tight, according to William Zmolek, county extension director.

Zmolek made a tour of the county during which he sampled corn in cribs and at elevators for moisture content. Of more concern than the high moisture corn was the empty cribs in all areas. The majority of the corn samples ran slightly above 20 per cent moisture.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 26 -

BARUCH SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF OPA, BAN ON WALKOUTS-Washington-Bernard M. Baruch, while denouncing as "inflationary" the Administration's wage policy and criticizing features of the reconversion program, appealed to Congress today to extend price controls for another year, but above everything, he asserted, it was necessary to increase production.

To support this first and general objective, Mr. Baruch told the House Banking and Currency Committee the Government should "stop increasing the money supply, stop decreasing taxes until the budget is balanced, stop bunking the public by saying wage increases can be granted without increase in price levels."

Neither price nor wage increases should be prescribed, he asserted, if they were necessary "to get and stimulate production."

Mr. Baruch, an adviser to Presidents, recommended that strikes and lockouts be banned for one year, "by agreement preferably, otherwise by law."

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PRESIDENT LAUDS LEHMAN RELIEF AID-Washington-In a letter made public at the White House today President Truman praised Herbert H. Lehman, retiring Director-General of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, for contributing to "lasting peace" by his part in making possible international collaboration for the relief of the distressed.

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HOOVER FINDS ITALY NEARING FOOD CRISIS-Rome-Herbert Hoover told reporters here today that the food problem in Italy was the same as in other parts of famine-threatened Europe--"to prevent starvation for the next 120 days until the new harvest is gathered."

That fate of starvation, he said, would "fall on the lower income groups and children soon after arrivals of overseas food stop."

Mr. Hoover gave his interview shortly before leaving for Geneva and Paris and thence to Prague and Warsaw.

Mr. Hoover said that if present Italian rations were lowered because of failure to import food stuffs, "it will be a disaster to the white collar and work classes."

The stock of cereals on hand in addition to supplies en route, he said, will maintain a reduced ration for about thirty days and it "is urgent that further supplies be loaded immediately."

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FOOD POLICY MIX-UP IN BRITAIN GROWS-London-Sir Ben Smith, Food Minister, just back from Washington, whose department announced last Friday imminent soap and fat ration cuts and on Saturday said that no decision on the ration had yet been reached, raised the food policy to the level of a first class muddle today by denying in the House of Commons that the Ministry had issued conflicting statements while failing to reveal any results of his Washington trip.

A Cabinet meeting this morning that was supposed to settle the matter of soap and fat rations lasted only an hour and took no action. It was reliably reported that this was because Sir Ben had not brought back enough data to enable a decision to be reached so there is likely to be further delay and more rumor.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Cont., March 26 -

LERCH TELLS KOREANS TO TIGHTEN UP BELTS-Seoul-Rapidly rising living costs and the lack of rice in southern Korea are causing increasing concern on the part of the authorities here.

The scarcity of consumer goods resulting from strong competition among purchasers and the failure of the military government to institute stringent controls over rice distribution, as well as a sharp increase in per capita consumption has led Maj. Gen. Archer L. Lerch, Military Governor, to issue repeated warnings to Koreans to "tighten their belts along with the other peoples of the world."

General Lerch has reminded Koreans of the warnings issued by Herbert Hoover that a million people throughout the world are facing starvation as a result of food shortages brought on by the premature removal of controls in all countries.

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DECIDED WEAKNESS DEVELOPS IN GRAINS-Chicago-Grains were firm at the start of trading today on the Board of Trade, but developed decided weakness later, with May rye slumping 5 5/8 cents a bushel from the early top, and closing 4 1/2 cents lower on the day. The active deliveries of oats were off 1 cent to 1 1/2 cent. Barley finished 3/4 cent lower to 1/4 cent higher, the former on September, which dropped below the ceiling price. All deliveries of wheat and corn, May oats, the deferred deliveries of rye and May and July barley were unchanged at the ceiling price.

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PRICES ON COTTON COVER WIDE RANGE-Confused over developments regarding legislation in Congress, and over the failure of the Office of Price Administration to issue the proposed new margin order, the cotton futures market moved yesterday over a fairly wide range and closed 6 points higher to 3 points lower on the New York Cotton Exchange.

The New York Cotton Exchange Service reported that the stock of cotton in the United States as of Feb. 28 was 13,158,000 bales, compared with 16,058,000 bales last year. Only 27 per cent was in Government hands, compared with 55 per cent last year, it said.

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From The New York Herald Tribune, March 26 -

POULTRY TIE-IN SALE UPHELD IN SUPREME COURT-Washington-The Office of Price Administration lost a major round in its fight against tie-in sales today when the United States Supreme Court reversed the conviction of a New York wholesale poultry firm for requiring its retail dealers to buy chicken feet and chicken skins with their Thanksgiving turkeys.

In a 5-to-3 decision that might open the way to a flood of legal actions against the OPA's tie in ban, the court ruled that the price control act outlaws only tie in sales of "worthless" secondary products.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 26 -

FURTHER PRICE RISE BARRED FOR COTTONS, Washington - Officials of the Office of Price Administration today strongly rejected the demands of cotton State Senators for price increases on cotton textiles.

Deputy Price Administrator Geoffrey Baker charged that textile manufacturers have been profiting "far in excess" of reasonable margins.

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PRIVATE TRADERS SCORE COTTON PLAN, Liverpool - The Government statement that raw cotton importation and distribution would in future be organized and administered by an officially-appointed cotton purchasing commission and that there would be no return to prewar marketing methods has caused consternation in local trade circles. It was not generally expected that the Government would permanently eliminate the private merchanting system in favor of planned collective bulk buying.

The Government's new policy will consequently meet with considerable opposition, it is believed. The Liverpool and Manchester Associations and the Master Spinners' Federation are to hold a joint meeting in the near future with the object of agreeing upon concerted action. Probability is that the president of the Board of Trade will be requested to receive a joint deputation from the three organizations and that he will be asked to reconsider the matter. Whether the Government will modify its declared intentions, however, is considered highly doubtful.

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WHEAT SHORTAGES CURB FLOUR OFFERS - The numerous uncertainties plaguing the flour milling industry, including the unfavorable wheat supply outlook, the possibility of another forced reduction in inventories of that grain and fears that operations may be curtailed within the near future, were reflected by a continued scarcity of offerings.

Some mills were reported to be entirely withdrawn on offerings of some items while others were limiting sales to regular buyers and only for current needs.

Indicative of the situation confronting mills, it was reported that PMA had been able to obtain only 250,000 sacks last week, compared with 1,800,000 sacks sought and this strengthened the belief of many mill men that more drastic measures were in the offing to facilitate Government procurement of wheat and flour for export.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 26 -

GOOD QUALITY COTTON will be scarce in the first full reconversion year. With the 1945 cotton crop showing the lowest grade index of any year on record, the supply (carryover plus crop) for the 1945-46 season is estimated 25% below a year earlier in the better grades.

Partly compensating for the low grade cotton produced last year, the crop averaged the longest staple length on record. Despite this, only the staple length of 1 1/32 inch seems to be in as ample supply as last year. The "grade" of cotton is based upon its color and cleanliness.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Wall Street Journal)

Farm Digest 625-46-3

From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 26 (Cont.) -

FARMERS EXPECTING higher prices from the Pace bill may be disappointed. Aimed at hiking farm staples about a third pricewise, this bill would seek higher "parity" values by including "the cost of farm labor" in the computation formula. Pace bill advocates point to a 215% rise in farm wages between 1910-14 and 1944.

But, say Agriculture Department experts, there's another way to look at it. They admit the 215% wage level increase then make this point: Due to technological improvement in farm equipment, productive capacity of farm workers has risen 98% over the same period.

Thus, with each farm "hand" now accomplishing about twice as much as he did formerly, the actual "cost" of farm labor has risen only about 59%—instead of 215%.

And, since 1910-14, prices of goods produced on farms have climbed 95%.

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TOMATO PLANTINGS boom in California. In one valley farmers are plowing up sugar beets, putting in tomatoes instead. In another tomato acreage is up ten-fold. A big reason is the small, unsold pack carried over from 1945. California's January 1 carryover was only 187,000 cases, 11% under a year ago. The national carryover of canned tomatoes is estimated at only 500,000 cases. It was 10 million at the start of 1940.

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SAVING FOOD AT BANQUETS - Letter to Editor - Permit me to extend to you my appreciation of your recent editorial as to overcoming the threatened food shortage and to enable us to give more help to the European countries by eliminating the numerous banquets now so frequently arranged.

It will not only save much food which is now wasted but incidentally may help the "physical condition" of many of the participants. I hope the public will recognize the suggested plan.

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U. S. OFFICIALS ARE NOT CONSIDERING PRICE RISE TO COAX GRAIN OFF FARMS - Washington - No plan to coax wheat and corn off farms through higher prices is under consideration in the Department of Agriculture, spokesmen for that agency said.

Top Agriculture officials, admitted, however, they were interested in getting additional grain both for domestic use and for export, but said that none of the various methods discussed involved raising prices. No decision has been made on what method to use to stimulate the flow of grain.

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COTTON EXPORTS UP SHARPLY - Unofficial Government estimates are that exports of American cotton for the current crop season ending July 31 will be around 3.5 million bales, or about 1.5 million bales more than the previous season, it was reported in the trade yesterday. This is in line with earlier estimates in the industry.

From The New York Times, March 24 -

REPORT FROM THE NATION, Midwest States, Meat Industry Demoralized as Black Market Grows - Omaha, The Midwest's legitimate meat industry is seriously demoralized -- from the range country's grasslands to the packer's killing floor. But the black market operators are in splendid spirits.

One eventual result of the situation, which came to a head this week, could be a severe shortage of meat supplies following the present period of maldistribution. Developments this week largely concerned themselves with stories of how black-market buyers, many from the East Coast, were grabbing supplies from under the packers' noses. But that presents only one angle of the story.

Livestock feeders are unhappy because they can't get grain. They are rushing their cattle and lambs, particularly, to market, a development urgently desired by many Government officials as a move to save grain. Up to 65 per cent of the cattle, however, go to blackmarket buyers at sleight-of-hand prices and are shipped out on the hoof.

Many in the industry are fearful that breeding stock is being severely liquidated, a fact which would produce future meat shortages more severe than those of wartime.

News Notes: With farmers in Iowa facing help shortages, a program has been started there to encourage rural war veterans to return to the farm. . . A Nebraska expert this week remarked that most of the wheat and corn supplies on farms was "Going to stay right there" until the farmers get their price; he thought a 25-cent-a-bushel increase in the wheat ceiling, effective only until June 1, would be required to bring wheat to market quickly.

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FAMINE AND PEACE, Editorial, Two of the horsemen of the Apocalypse, Conquest and Slaughter, have been routed by the supreme sacrifices of the United Nations, but the two remaining ones, Famine and Death, are still galloping round the earth. For the first time since the Middle Ages, they have spread their reign across all Europe, whose vaunted civilization had prided itself on having banished them forever. They are intensifying their terror in India and in China, which never quite succeeded in conquering them. They are invading Japan, and the hunger riots which have started in Hamburg are not only a verification of the fears held by responsible officials for a long time but also a warning of what is in store on a much bigger scale unless drastic measures are immediately taken to cope with a situation which is imperiling all our efforts at both peace and democratic reconstruction.

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TRUMAN AIDE FEARS WIDE STARVATION - With a warning that "never before in our time have so many people been living so close to death by starvation," Chester C. Davis, chairman of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee, appealed to the American people yesterday to cut down use of bread, flour and pastry so that 225,000,000 bushels of wheat could be exported by July 1.

"The Government is taking steps to save on the use of wheat for alcohol, for flour and for feeding animals," Mr. Davis said. "But giving full allowance for the results of all those savings, we still will be many millions of bushels short of the goal. The problem of closing up that gap therefore comes right down to our own homes and our own tables."

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The Memphis Commercial Appeal, March 19 -

HOGS ARE SUGGESTED AS MORTGAGE BUFFER - Ten or twelve good sows, if handled right, will keep mortgage troubles away from almost any MidSouth farm, R. W. Jones, Raleigh Poland-China breeder, told the Memphis Agricultural Club yesterday.

"We need a lot more good hogs in this part of the country," Mr. Jones declared, "because the time's coming when just any hog with a lot of fat on him won't be rubbing against the OPA ceiling when he comes to market."

The speaker asserted that good breeding pays off in hog production, "just as it does with cattle, cotton seed or anything else you produce."

He pointed out that the hog can help change many MidSouth crop losses into profits by turning weather-damaged corn, soybeans and small grains into pork right in the field. It's cheaper, he said, to harvest crops that way than to send high-priced labor into the fields to do the picking.

Purebred hogs, he continued, can be produced more economically than can grades of unknown ancestry "for the simple reason that with purebred hogs we have an index to production records of their ancestry."

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From The Salt Lake Tribune

31,000 TREES SENT TO UTAH FARMS, Panguitch -- Thirty-one thousand trees and shrubs to be planted during the coming year now are being distributed to Utah farmers and ranchers through their soil conservation districts, Ralph Felker, state farm woodland specialist for SCS, announced Sunday.

The plants will be used, under the supervision of the districts, to establish windbreaks on farms and ranches and for stream bank erosion control.

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From The Baltimore Sun, March 24 -

FEED GERMANS, EVANS URGES - It is imperative that the United States help feed the starving Germans not only for humanitarian reasons but also in order to simplify the control of the people, Henry C. Evans, former 76th Division brigadier general, declared yesterday.

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SUPPLY OF UNRRA'S CEREALS AND FLOUR FAR SHORT OF NEED - Washington, Available flour and cereals for the ten countries being aided by UNRRA may be less than one third of minimum requirements next month, UNRRA officials said today.

The requirements have been calculated at 700,000 long tons. The supply in sight for April is only 220,000 tons because of the world food shortage.

During no month of this year has the 700,000-ton requirement been met. January shipments of cereals and products totaled 420,000, February 310,000 and March's are expected to be about 400,000.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

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From The New York Times, March 27 -

TRUMAN FOOD GROUP OPPOSES RATIONING-AP-Washington-President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee decided today that food rationing in this country would be no help now in feeding the hungry of other lands.

The matter was discussed as a result of the rationing suggestion made by Herbert H. Lehman, retiring director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Chester C. Davis, chairman, told reporters that the immediate need was to send wheat and fats to famine areas by July and expressed the belief that voluntary measures would do the job. He said:

"It will take four months to get new ration books printed and rationing machinery re-established. There is no use talking about rationing for the present emergency."

Mr. Davis added that he did not mean to indicate whether there might or might not be a return to rationing later. That would be determined, he said, by subsequent events, including crop production here and abroad this year.

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FEEDING OF AUSTRIA BY UNRRA IN DOUBT-Vienna-The possibility that April 1--the day when the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is supposed to take over from the occupying armies the task of feeding Austria--may prove to be April fools' day for the Austrian people seems to be growing. Actually, unless the Russian authorities give a satisfactory answer to American protests against their policy of seizing lower Austrian farmlands and Zistersdorf oil, UNRRA may not be allowed to start operations in the Russian zone. Even if it does get the green light, doubt exists whether it can obtain enough food to prevent the onset of a serious situation in late May, not only in the Russian zone, but in all of Austria.

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OPA CUTS EXPORTS OF COTTON FABRICS-Washington-Civilian Production Administration today reduced the required exports of cotton textiles during the next three months to 9.6 per cent of total cotton fabric production, compared with 11 percent for the first quarter of the year.

The "set-asides" for export in April, May and June, as a result of the reduction, are expected to approximate 232,500,000 yards, which will be directed into rehabilitation and relief needs and regular export channels. During the first three months of the year exports for these purposes amounted to 255,300,000 yards, or about 9 per cent greater than for the coming three-month period.

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COTTON REGISTERS 11-18 POINT DROP-After opening 1 point higher to 2 points lower, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange turned easier yesterday and closed 11 to 12 points net lower. Early steadiness was attributed largely to price fixing, and commission house buying. Later the market broke on reports that the OPA order for higher margins for cotton futures might be issued overnight, and on reports that Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson had agreed to sign the order.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Cont., March 26 -

GRAIN PRICES MAKE FRACTIONAL GAINS-Chicago-Grain prices averaged higher today on the Board of Trade with a revival of talk that the Government was considering a higher price on cash corn in an effort to induce freer marketings having considerable influence on sentiment. Oats were up 1 1/8 cents a bushel at one time but eased late in the session on profit-taking and finished unchanged to 1/2 cent up, July leading. May rye had a range of about 2 cents and closed with a gain of 1/4 cent. A light trade was on in September and December wheat at the ceiling price, and that grain with corn, barley, May oats and the deferred deliveries of rye closed unchanged.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, March 27 -

HUNGER SUICIDE IN HAMBURG-Hamburg-The first starvation suicide in Hamburg was reported today, Johanna Chelke, sixty-seven, was found hanged, and it was understood she killed herself because of hunger.

Meanwhile, about ninety persons participated in thirteen food thefts and thirty-two were arrested. Bread was the loot in nearly every case. Fifty persons raided a coal train near Berkheim-Rheinhausen, in the Ruhr industrial basin.

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NO BRITISH RATION CUT NOW-London-Sir Ben Smith, Minister of Food, announced today that no further cuts in the British ration of butter, margarine and cooking fat were being contemplated for the present, but that the situation was being kept under review. The ration is now seven ounces a week, lower than at any time during the war.

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EASING OF SHIRT SHORTAGE FORECAST IN 6-9 MONTHS-Washington-A government textile expert said today that the shortage of shirts and shorts and other cotton clothes should be eased in six to nine months, but Senator John Bankhead, Democrat, of Alabama, protested "that's a long time to keep the people naked."

Major Herbert Rose, director of the textile division of the Civilian Production Administration, told the Senate agriculture subcommittee investigating the cotton goods scarcity that the recent 5 per cent "incentive" increase in textile ceilings should "get us out of the woods," but that it would take six or nine months.

Charles A. Cannon, Raleigh, N. C. chairman of the board of the American Cotton Manufacturing Association, complained that government policies were freezing out cotton in favor of rayon.

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From The Baltimore Sun, March 27 -

O'CONOR URGES FOOD SAVING-Annapolis-Governor O'Connor today proclaimed the next "one hundred and twenty days" a period of "self denial" in the State in co-operation with the Famine Emergency Committee.

The Governor asked Marylanders "to follow to the limit of their ability the program of saving food as set forth by the campaign committee, that these starving people of other nations may be given the opportunity to survive."

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 27 -

HARVESTER PARLEY CONTINUES TODAY, Washington - Federal conciliators failed today to settle a 65-day old strike of 30,000 employees of the International Harvester Co. and summoned the disputants to further conferences tomorrow.

Both the company and the union have agreed to accept a Government fact-finding proposal for an 18c hourly wage increase, but still are at odds over other issues.

These include union security provisions, maintenance of memberships, dues checkoff, arbitration and grievance machinery.

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DISCOUNTS IN LOW GRADES SPUR SOUTHERN COTTON MILLS, New Orleans - Activity was fairly large in the spot cotton markets of the South-Central belt during the past week, but most of the sales reported in the interior resulted from recent CCC auctioning. Aggregate turnover was slightly larger than during the preceding week and nearly doubled that of the corresponding week a year ago.

Mills were reported doubtful about pending ceiling and margin legislation and inclined to show caution and cover only for specified needs. Buying was for both prompt and deferred shipments with occasional purchases for the remainder of season needs.

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BATAVIA SUGAR STOCK REPORTED TO BE SMALL, Batavia - There is scarcely more than enough sugar available here and in Semarang and Soerabaja to meet local needs for the next six weeks, Netherlands Indies authorities stated here today.

(Lord Killearn, newly-appointed British Special Commissioner for South-east Asia, was reported in a dispatch from Singapore last Friday to have said he would report to the Combined Food Board in Washington that sugar stocks sufficient to keep all of Britain in sugar for two years were lying in warehouses at Batavia.)

According to official Japanese reports, a total of about 1,500,000 long tons of sugar were in stock in the interior of Java but these cannot now be reached--if, indeed, they are still in existence.

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MANY FLOUR MILLS REJECT BOOKINGS - A further tightening in the flour situation was apparent yesterday, with many mills refusing to take on new bookings, even for buyers of long standing, due to the constantly deteriorating wheat supply outlook.

Most mills were reported to have bookings in excess of the amount of wheat on hand and contracted for, and the increasing difficulty in obtaining wheat necessitated the extremely cautious selling policy.

Seldom, if ever, has the milling industry been confronted with the numerous complications which now beset it and each new development brings with it new problems,, all traceable to Government regulations and edicts, with the end not yet in sight, it was pointed out.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 27 -

FOOD SITUATION - U.N.R.R.A. recommended that occupation troops abroad stop living off the land.

The international relief agency's policy committee backed up U. S. assertions that Red Army troops in Austria were depriving Austrians of food and farm lands. The committee, however, pigeon-holed a request that the U.N.R.R.A. stop sending food to any area where the recommendation might be ignored. The Russian bloc opposed the move, but did not vote on it. France abstained also.

World-wide food rationing will not be recommended by the U.N.R.R.A. despite the request of retiring Director General Lehman, said British and American sources. They said the agency's supply council was planning to recommend food be guaranteed for U.N.R.R.A. programs through set-aside and requisition plans in any nation which has exportable food.

German civilians in the British occupation zone will get slightly higher food rations in April, the British announced. At Hamburg, 13 more food shops were looted.

Russia's wheat crop this year may turn out to be the biggest since before the war. Ambitious planting programs are reported under way in the Ukraine and elsewhere.

Argentine meat plants resumed operations as 50,000 workers ended a 25-day strike.

More Victory gardens were urged by President Truman in opening a national campaign.

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GOOD STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE YEAR, IF WEATHER HOLDS, Chicago - The war-time strawberry "famine" will probably end this year.

That's what agricultural agents for railroads that move this highly perishable fruit up from the South and Southwest predict. Prospects now appear the best since 1942, but these crop experts caution that you can never be sure of strawberries until they are picked.

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CORN PRODUCTS PRESIDENT BLAMES ARTIFICIAL PRICES, Ridgefield, N. J. - The outlook for the corn refining industry is "very discouraging" and unless the present artificial price system is changed "the whole country will run out of corn," Morris Sayre, president of Corn Products Refining Co., stated at the annual meeting.

"Price ceilings are at the root of our trouble and they must be corrected," declared Mr. Sayre. "As long as it is more profitable for farmers to feed their corn to livestock the present excessive feeding of cattle will continue."

Corn Products has been running seven days a week at full capacity since the early part of March, when its striking workers returned. It is able to operate at capacity because, it is using corn accumulated during the strike, which started the middle of last January.

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Farm Digest 635-46-4

From The Kansas City Star, March 24.-

FARM POND PLAN OUT, Jefferson City -- The theory of flood control by multitudinous farm ponds as opposed to the Pick - Sloan plan for great reservoirs on the Missouri river and its tributaries, was punctured this afternoon by Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick with nothing more than a short pencil and scrap of paper.

He explained he had taken the Pattonsburg dam proposed for flood control on the Grand river in North Missouri as an example.

"We figure the necessary capacity behind that dam to do its flood control job, at 1,200,000 acre-feed," he said. "Now let's see how it would work to break it up in smaller lakes -- big farm ponds. I've taken a 250-acre lake as the unit, each holding water eight feet deep.

"I figure it would require 640 of them to serve the same flood control purposes as the Pattonsburg dam, and that they would cover 150,000 acres of land. The Pattonsburg dam will inundate only 38,500 acres of land. On our basis of figuring costs the 640 small lakes would cost 95 million dollars."

"The estimated cost of Pattonsburg reservoir is 16 millions."

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From The Amarillo Globe, Amarillo, Texas, March 22.-

EDITOR'S BOOK HITS AGRICULTURE DEPT., Oklahoma City (U.P.) -- Duplication of services and overlapping of authority of agencies in the Department of Agriculture present a picture of wide confusion to farmers today, says Ferdie Deering, editor of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman.

Deering advocates in his new book, "USDA: Manager of American Agriculture," a complete reorganization and streamlining of the now "inefficient" department.

Holding the title as the world's largest spending agency, except the Army and Navy, the agriculture department in the past 40 years has mushroomed in size and extent of services so that a single division today may have as many as 10,000 employees, says Deering.

Many agencies are in direct competition with one another -- each attempting to build up favorable sentiment to help perpetuate itself," asserts the editor.

The department, which has already become an essential part of national and farm life, should be re-formed into a comprehensible and efficient unit of government whose primary purpose is to find out how, inform the farmer and provide him services he cannot get elsewhere, says the author.

The plan for reorganization, he writes, should be based on the principle that functions should be grouped so that related activities could be co-ordinated and duties might be expanded or reduced according to need without creating myriad new agencies or trying to abolish established bureaus.

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From Pennsylvania Farmer, March 23 -

A PUNY CASE, Editorial, A man who innocently and ignorantly sold a veal calf for \$18.50 per cwt. instead of \$18.40, the official price, has been fined by OPA \$50 and \$27 costs. This man got 50c for selling the calf. There have been plenty of petty prosecutions by OPA, but we challenge anybody to produce a more puny case than this.

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From The Independent, Uniontown, Pa., March 22 -

WORLD PRICES RISE? Editorial, What can we look forward to if price controls on manufactured goods are removed? Would prices skyrocket?

Many people think so, though most manufacturers do not.

Manufacturers do not think that women would stand in line to buy nylons at \$6 or \$8 a pair if they knew that next month they would be \$2.

Manufacturers do not think people would pay \$10,000 for an automobile if they are convinced that in three or six months they can buy the same car for \$1,000.

Manufacturers do not think a store could sell a simple white shirt for \$10 if people know that in a matter of weeks they can buy all the shirts they want at \$1.95.

The plain fact is people do not bid up prices when an avalanche of goods is coming into the market.

People bid up prices only when they fear continuous and increasing shortages.

If price controls are removed and production starts rolling, the fear of shortages will evaporate like mist before the sun. People have confidence in the ability of industry to produce when given the chance.

From The Atlanta Constitution, March 22 -

THIS WEEK IS WILDLIFE PROTECTION WEEK, By Channing Cope -- This week is being celebrated as Wildlife Protection Week.

What of the farmer on whose land the wildlife lives and from whom the protection must come? Why should he spend the time, the effort and the feed? The answer is that it is good business for him to do so. It is said that unless nature's balance is kept fairly well intact, all sorts of harmful things will happen to us. Kill off the birds by direct or indirect action; shoot them out or starve them out, and the insects take over. Fill up the fish ponds with silt; dynamite them, seine them out or merely starve them out by failing to fertilize their habitats, and there is left only the pesky mosquito. The practical way to aid our wildlife is by feed and cover. Small grains allowed to remain in the fields, the lespedeza bi-color (a beautiful shrub of itself) in border strips, the annual lespedezas gone to seed, a few shocks of corn; all these feeds meet the needs of the bird population. Wooded areas, seresia strips, berry thickets, plum thickets, etc., make good cover; a means of escape from their many enemies. A small hog self-feeder loaded with small grain and placed at the edge of the woods is the ideal way to care for the birds during the worst weather conditions.

From Pennsylvania Farmer, March 23 -

POULTRY POLICY, Editorial, March 6-7 the leaders in the poultry industry from all parts of the nation held a conference with federal officials at Washington. Leon Todd, Secretary of the National Poultry Producers Federation, reports: "Realizing that the industry must look ahead, considerable attention was given to the research and other work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All of our considerations for the future welfare of the industry were away from government regulation and in the direction of constructive work by the Department to help our industry help itself." Correct at both ends and in the middle.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, March 28 -

DRASTIC PROGRAM ON FOOD ADOPTED-Atlantic City-The eleven-nation special food committee recommended today rigorous food saving measures. It also called for a recess in this United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council to permit assessing the scarce supply situation with provision to convene in Washington as soon as the director general can report.

The resolution of the food committee was adopted unanimously at a session of the committee of the whole on policy held tonight to close the two weeks debate here on world food.

The expectation here was that the Council would reconvene in Washington in two or three weeks. In the interim the UNRRA director general would be requested under the resolution of the food committee "to consult immediately and continuously with representatives of the supplying Governments and with the combined food board to consider the effectiveness of steps being taken and to report thereon to the Central Committee and the Council."

Mr. Lehman's recommendation for strictest governmental controls, including rationing and set-asides. The recommendation as adopted was for "strengthening and continuation of present" and the adoption "where necessary" of new and more rigorous methods of control and procurement, including food rationing, requisitioning and set-aside order and tightening up of collection of supplies in rural areas to go to ports and urban areas.

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MAY EXCEED SUGAR PRICE-Washington-The Government ruled today that the Commodity Credit Corporation, could import direct-consumption sugar at prices exceeding the legal maximums established by the Office of Price Administration.

The OPA granted the exemption to ceiling prices in a move to increase the volume of sugar imports, it was stated. The action will enable the CCC, the official buyer of sugar, to obtain supplies of direct-consumption sugar "from all possible sources of production outside the United States," according to the price agency.

Prices to consumers would not be increased, the OPA said, because the CCC had the authority to subsidize sugar purchases through a provision of being able to sell at a price below the price it paid.

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FARM MACHINE HEADS BID TO STRIKE TALK-Washington-The Government asked top officials of three-strike-bound farm machinery concerns tonight to come to Washington for conferences Friday as Federal conciliation attempts collapsed.

Secretary Anderson and Secretary Schwollenbach, declaring "a grave emergency" existed due to farm machinery shortages, sent telegrams to Fowler McCormick, president of the International Harvester; Walter Giest, president of the Allis-Chalmers Company, and L. R. Clausen, head of the J. I. Case Company to attend a conference in Mr. Anderson's office Friday.

About 42,500 union members are idle at seventeen plants of the three companies, with 30,000 on strike at eleven of International Harvester.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Cont., for March 28 -

FARM PARITY ISSUE TO FORE IN SENATE-Washington-The Administration's proposal for increases in the legal minimum wage to 65 cents an hour this year and to 75 cents by 1950 was maneuvered into a priority position over a lower scale substitute in the Senate today, but it was soon found tied to an amendment which, Government officials declared, would add \$4,000,000 to the country's annual household food budget.

As the parliamentary situation stood tonight, the Senate, before making a choice between the 65-to-75-cent minimum wage and one starting at 55 cents and stopping at 60 cents, must vote first on a measure which would require the inclusion of all farm labor costs in the computation of parity prices on major agricultural commodities.

Although it has been hinted in Administration quarters that adoption of the parity amendment (also known as the Packer Bill) would invite a Presidential veto of the entire wage legislation, it appeared that a Southern Democratic-Republican coalition was forming behind it, assembling Representatives of the Cotton, Corn and Wheat Belts and others hostile to the 65-75-cent program.

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SCARCITY OF CORN WORRIES REFINERS-F. T. Bedford, president of Penick & Ford, Ltd., said at the annual meeting of stockholders yesterday that the corn situation had the corn refining industry worried, and that the company had only seven or eight-day supply of corn on hand.

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COTTON PRICES UP BY 3 TO 16 POINTS-Despite hedge selling in the October, 1946 delivery, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange closed yesterday 3 to 16 points higher than the day before, with the near months relatively firmer near distant. It opened unchanged to 5 points up, and worked higher on price fixing.

It was reported that by Friday American shippers will sell to China 30,000 bales of American cotton, basis old May, April-May shipment. Most of the cotton will be middling 7/8 inch.

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TREND IS BEARISH IN GRAIN TRADING-Chicago-Bearish sentiment predominated in the early trading today on the Board of Trade and active deliveries of oats and May rye preceded moderately under commission-house and local pressure, but when shorts tried to cover they found offerings light. Oats rallied 7/8 to 1 1/4 cents a bushel from the low and rye was up 2 cents at the extreme with oats finishing unchanged to 5/8 cent higher than yesterday. May rye gained 1/2 cent. Wheat, corn, May oats and the deferred futures of rye held at ceiling prices. The distant months in barley were down 1 to 1 1/2 cents.

The directors of the Board of Trade voted unanimously today not to reconsider forcing closing out of trades in May wheat at the ceiling price of \$1.85 1/2 a bushel.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 28 -

PASSAGE OF PARITY RISE RIDER FEARED BY ADMINISTRATION, Washington - Sponsors of the Administration-supported wage bill tonight expressed fear that an amendment forcing inclusion of farm labor costs in the parity index will be adopted by the Senate.

Debate on the amendment indicated that a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats might be able to muster enough votes to put the amendment over.

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NEW PACK BEAN PRICES SUSPENDED, Washington - All processed snap beans packed on and after March 1, 1946, except strained or chopped snap beans sold as baby foods, are suspended from price control for an indefinite period, the Office of Price Administration announced today.

At the same time, OPA exempted from price control canned and frozen fresh shelled beans and soy beans.

This exemption does not apply to lima beans, Fordhook lima beans, or those legumes known as crowder, blackeye, cream or field peas. This action is effective as of March 1, 1946.

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FURTHER DIVERSION OF BUTTER REPORTED - Legitimate channels are as starved of butter supplies as ever, with a considerable proportion of the sharply cut make being merchandized at other points, interior and elsewhere and in the black market in all areas.

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CUSTOM SLAUGHTER CURBS REINSTATED, Washington - The OPA, in another move aimed at black markets in meat, ordered today the restoration of war-time controls over custom slaughtering operations.

The agency said its order, effective April 1, is directed against the recent large increase "in new and inexperienced cattle buyers, who through ignorance or without regard for ceiling prices" have been forcing up cattle prices.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 28 -

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO. THINKS IT CAN COMPLETE NEW PEORIA PROJECT, Chicago - Caterpillar Tractor Co.'s plan to expand its Peoria, Ill., plant facilities by about 46% is not expected to be held up by the Government program to channel construction materials into veterans' housing. Government approval for the new construction should be forthcoming, it was indicated, because actual work had begun before the restrictions were announced.

Caterpillar's last expansion program, completed about 1930, cost approximately \$15 million. The company would make no comment on a report in a local paper that the new construction would cost an estimated \$50 million.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Wall Street Journal)

Farm Digest 645-46-3

From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 28 (Cont.) -

SOUTHWESTERN FLOUR MILL BOOKINGS DROP, Kansas City - Bookings by southwestern flour mills last week average about 21% of capacity, except in Texas, where a heavier volume was consummated largely for export. This compared with bookings of 22% in the previous week and 33% a year ago, the Northwestern Miller reported.

FOOD FAIR STORES - The sharp improvement in sales and earnings of Food Fair Stores, Inc., in 1945, when it established new records, is understood to have been accelerated this year. It is estimated that for the 12 weeks ended March 23, 1946 sales of Food Fair were approximately 80% above the corresponding period of 1945. The percentage increase in profits for the period is expected to be as good, if not better. For the 52 weeks ended December 29, 1945, sales were \$60,564,514 and net income rose \$2.46 a common share. Born during the depression years of the early thirties, Food Fair had two stores and reported sales of \$2,292,715. At the end of 1945 it has 89 markets.

From the New York Herald Tribune, March 28 -

FOOD MEN PRESS FOR CHANGES IN U.S. RELIEF PLAN - Food industry leaders are making renewed efforts to get the government to adopt a "realistic" policy in securing the needed wheat supplies for its famine emergency feeding program abroad, it was learned yesterday. Despite repeated failures to obtain a hearing on industry proposals, the new attempt is being made because of the mounting concern in the industry over the long-range effects of the government publicity campaign, the disruption already caused in food distribution, as well as the admittedly "disturbing" increase in public hoarding.

The real cause of the wheat shortage for human consumption, food men contend, is that it is more profitable for farmers to feed the grain to cattle than to sell it to commercial channels for food use. All the government famine publicity to date, they assert, has failed to dislodge a single extra bushel of wheat from the farms.

WALLACE PUTS WHEAT SUPPLY AT HALF THE NEED; Washington - The world need for wheat during the next few months will be twice the total supply, Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Commerce, told the National Garden Conference late today, after John W. Snyder, Director of War Mobilization and Reconstruction, had urged a successful home food-growing program this year as "one of the easiest, quickest, and fairest ways to prevent inflation of food prices out of all reason." Mr. Snyder stated that the nation should supplement the civilian supply with homegrown foods--as much home grown produce as it can raise this year.

From Chicago Journal of Commerce, March 26 -

NO NEED TO WONDER WHERE WE'RE HEADED UNDER MR. TRUMAN, By Wilbur J. Brons - When Mr. Truman became Chief Executive of the nation, there was wide-spread speculation as to what his stewardship portended for private enterprise.

It is abundantly plain now, however, that Mr. Truman meant what he said when he announced that he would carry on the program of his predecessor. The aim of the present administration is definitely toward more and more governmental planning instead of toward a resumption of free markets. The President does not trust the American concept of economic freedom any more than did Mr. Roosevelt.

The latest evidence of this is Mr. Truman's request that Congress act to provide wool growers the same protection and benefits given to other products of the nation's farms and pastures. He proposes a revised "parity" price and support of the growers' income through a system of government purchases and loans. All this, he thinks, will minimize the effect of foreign competition in the domestic market.

If there is anything better calculated to keep us on the wage-price merry-go-round than upward revision or extension of the parity formula, no one has thought of it. Whatever reasons there might have been for parity during the depression disappeared long ago.

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BARUNCH ON CONTROLS, Editorial, Bernard M. Baruch, testifying yesterday before the House banking and currency committee, advanced, as he usually does in his public utterances, some valuable suggestions. With his advocacy of continued price controls, however, many businessmen will not agree.

Mr. Baruch would keep the price control act for another year, but "with the provision that no raise in prices be made without the approval of OPA, and no increase in wage scales without approval of the Office of Economic Stabilization."

Although Mr. Baruch has confidence that the great production necessary to soak up purchasing power can be accomplished under OPA, the evidence from dozens of industries accumulated since VJ-Day argues to the contrary. The shortages in some lines of clothing illustrate what happens when price ceilings do not take into account increased costs of labor and materials.

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FEED-GRAIN FLOUR TIE-INS MINIMIZED BY ANDERSON AID, Washington, (AP) -- A Department of Agriculture spokesman said today he did not believe there was any widespread selling of white flour for use as livestock feed.

"We have no evidence of such a situation anywhere," he told a reporter.

Mayor Francis H. Wendt of Racine, Wis., had requested Wisconsin congressmen to ask for an investigation of what he said were sales of large quantities of white flour as livestock feed.

The mayor had said feed dealers had been forced to buy flour in order to obtain grain for feeding purposes.

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From Pennsylvania Farmer, March 23 -

A LATE LESSON, Editorial, One regulation always begets others, so naturally the flour regulation has produced a few more, these not of special interest to farmers. Our regulators who are trying to rescue wheat from feed manufacturers, distillers, processors and feeders may learn too late that if its price had been allowed to take its natural course it could not have been fed with profit.

Farm Digest 645-46-5

From The Atlanta Constitution, March 22 -

TOM LINDER KNOWS BETTER THAN THAT, Editorial, As State Commissioner of Agriculture, it is Tom Linder's job to represent the farmer. He does it well, though oftentimes to his own discredit as a level-headed, commonsense talking practical economist.

For instance, in testifying before the House Banking Committee this week in opposition to extension of price control, Commissioner Linder made the uncharacteristically demagogic charge that "by design or stupidity, the OPA is an unprecedented racket."

Tom Linder knows better than that.

Tom Linder knows that, as a result of the very lack of controls whose abolition he is now advocating, farmers suffered more than anyone else in the crash that followed the inflationary boom after the last war.

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From The Times-Picayune New Orleans States, March 24 -

COTTONSEED CAKE FED TO YEARLINGS, Fort Collins, Colo. -- Supplemental feeding of cottonseed cake and minerals to yearling steers on grass pasture increases their estimated market value.

This was shown by a recently completed three-year study conducted by the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

The first year of the test, steers which were given cottonseed cake made additional gains of 60 pounds a head. They were fed a half-pound of cake per head each day for the first 30 days and from the middle of September to November 10 they received a pound and a half.

During the last two years of the test, steers getting cottonseed cake did not make extra gains over the others, but those getting the minerals had the highest estimated market value two out of the three years the experiment ran.

The mineral mixture consisted of a third salt, a third steamed bonemeal and a third ground limestone.

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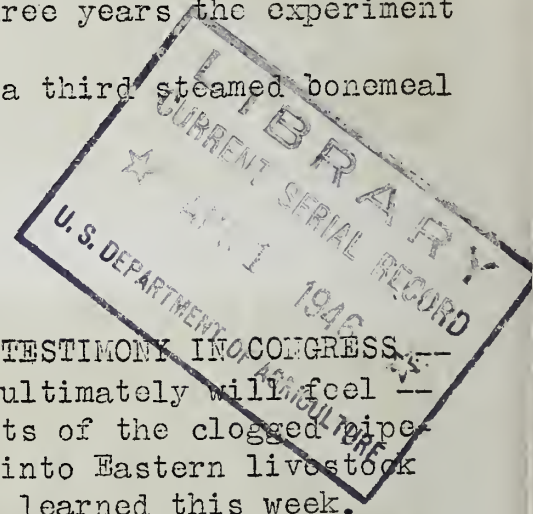
From The Southern Maryland Times, March 22 -

LIVESTOCK PRICE-FEED RATIO HIT BY FEED COUNCIL TESTIMONY IN CONGRESS -- Forty-nine million consumers in the Atlantic States ultimately will feel -- through declining milk and egg supplies -- the effects of the clogged pipeline that ordinarily siphons grain from the Midwest into Eastern livestock bins, The House Special Food Investigating Committee learned this week.

Testimony indicated that one of the principal clogging factors that now prevent grain from reaching the East is a distorted livestock price-feed ratio.

The Atlantic States Feed Council, representing farmers, feed manufacturers, distributors and farmer cooperatives now feeling the pangs of what may become an even more critical feed shortage, urged in testimony this week that the government take steps to assure farmers -- from Maine to Georgia -- of their fair share of available feedstuffs.

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714 (The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the New York Times, March 29 -

MEAT PRICE CURBS DECLARED FAILURE-Washington-James H. McCall, board chairman of The American Meat Institute, told Congress today that price controls on meat had "Completely broken down" and that "a wasteful, scandalous and flagrant black market" now existed. Mr. McCall urged the House Agriculture Committee to recommend abandonment of meat price controls.

Mr. McCall's request was one of a barrage loosed today against controls by packers, commission merchants and other representatives of the livestock industry.

Simultaneously, Representative Rees, Republican, of Kansas, reported that an OPA official informed him that meat packers would obtain "some relief" within a few days. Mr. Rees told a reporter that Zenas L. Potter, special assistant to Paul Porter, OPA Administrator, told him that some price increase might be granted.

Mr. McCall told the agriculture group that "the liquor racket of the Twenties was petty crime compared to the black market meat racket under the OPA now."

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LIVESTOCK CEILING END URGED-Chicago-Lifting of price ceilings on live animals not later than June 30, the present expiration date of the Office of Price Administration, and discontinuance of all meat and livestock subsidy payments at the same time, was urged upon Congress today by the National Livestock Producers Association.

The action was taken by resolution at the annual meeting of the directors and stockholders of the organization.

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U.S. CAN STILL AID, HOOVER DECLARES-Washington-Former President Herbert Hoover has reported that food conditions in three countries so far visited are "difficult but not intolerable, provided present rations can be maintained."

The American people, the report said: "can still avert widespread starvation in these three countries by saving and shipping more food."

The report covered conditions in France, French North Africa and Italy. It was signed by Mr. Hoover and Dr. D. A. FitzGerald, Director of the Office of Requirements and Allocations, Department of Agriculture.

Chester C. Davis, of the Famine Emergency Committee commented that the report "should encourage this country to redouble its efforts to send food abroad. ***One person who saves a slice of bread may not be able to see just how that saving will help feed people in Europe. But the Famine Emergency Committee gives assurance that such savings, multiplied in millions of American homes each day, will most certainly enable this country to load the ships with the food that is needed to prevent famine overseas."

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JOHNSTON URGES LOAN AS FOREIGN TRADE AID-Boston-Eric A. Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, said tonight that the proposed \$3,750,000,000 loan to Great Britain would not only help that country but also help provide 5,000,000 American jobs, protect American foreign trade and insure the American system of free enterprise.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

Farm Digest 655-46

From The New York Times, Cont., March 29 -

SOME PRICE CUTS ORDERED BY OPA ON BAKERY GOODS-UP-Washington-The Office of Price Administration said today that bakers had been instructed to lower retail prices on such bakery products as cakes, doughnuts, cinnamon buns and pastries when the weight had been reduced in conformity with the famine emergency program.

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COTTON PRICES RISE TO SEASON'S HIGH-Cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange moved yesterday into new high levels for the season and closed at or near the best levels of the day 28 to 37 points net higher.

The market started 7 to 16 points higher and steadily rose on heavy price fixing by merchants, and also fixing against anticipated buying for exports. It was reported that fixations on the 30,000 to 35,000 bales sold to China will be completed by the close today. The cotton is for April-May shipment.

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PACE BILL DEBATE LIFTS GRAIN PRICES-Chicago-Grain prices were on the upgrade the greater part of the day, buying being induced by the opening of debate in Congress on the Pace bill, a rider to the Minimum Wage Bill. The bill seeks to compel adding farm labor costs computing parity prices, and also reports that considerable progress has been made in bringing together various Government agencies in a program designed to increase the flow of cash grains from farms into commercial channels, intimations being that higher prices would be given.

May rye closed 2 cents a bushel higher today on the Board of Trade and the active deliveries of oats rose $3/8$ to 1 cent, September leading. The latter gained $5/8$ cent on July, regaining ground lost yesterday. The deferred deliveries of barley gained $1/8$ to $1/2$ cent. Wheat, corn, May oats and the deferred deliveries of rye held at the ceiling.

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HARVESTER BARS UNION PEACE PLAN-Chicago-An offer by the Farm Equipment Workers Union, CIO, to end its sixty-seven day strike at ten plants of the International Harvester Company under an interim agreement providing arbitration of some issues, was rejected by the company today, leaving the situation virtually unchanged.

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FARM EQUIPMENT AND CANNING PLANT SEIZURES THOUGHT POSSIBLE-Washington-Labor Department officials said today that Government seizure of strike-bound farm equipment plants and idle California canneries was increasingly probable. Both have an important bearing on the country's food supply.

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BRITAIN SUSTAINS POLICY ON COTTON-London-Despite strenuous and closely argued Conservative objections in the House of Commons today, the Government refused to modify its decision to keep the hundred-year-old Liverpool Cotton Exchange closed and to entrust the problem of supplying Britain's vital spinning industry to a Government Board.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, March 29 -

INCREASE IN FLOUR SUBSIDY EXPECTED - Businesses in flour continued at a near standstill yesterday as mills remained out of the market but if the expected increase in the subsidy for April materializes it was believed that some expansion in bookings will be witnessed.

However, mills will continue to restrict sales, irrespective of subsidy action, until assured adequate wheat supplies. Stocks of wheat held by mills and purchased to arrive have been steadily decreasing and there have been isolated reports of shutdowns caused by exhaustion of wheat holdings.

Moreover, there was the ever present threat that the lag in the CCC wheat export program may result in a further drop in the supply of wheat available to mills with a resulting decline grindings.

The probability of an increase in the subsidy was based on a rise of 3c in the wheat ceiling which occurred after the March subsidy was announced. Also, it was pointed out that many mills have been forced to bring wheat from much greater distances than heretofore which further increased costs and more than offset any savings which might have been effected under the higher extraction.

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ANDERSON "AGREEABLE" TO CANNERY SEIZURE, Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson made it known today he is agreeable to Government seizure of California strike-bound canneries to prevent waste of food.

Representative Jack Z. Anderson (Rep., Calif.) told a reporter that Secretary Anderson advised him in a telephone conversation that he will discuss the situation with President Truman.

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FEED SUPPLY SHORT - All feed ingredients were in very tight supply with shortages probably more acute than at any time this season owing to the curtailed millfeed output and withholding of corn by farmers in expectation of a higher price.

Millfeeds were still moving against previous contracts or by truck and Eastern deficiency areas were especially hard hit, although some relief was being provided by a fairly steady flow of millfeeds imported from Argentina.

Some trade spokesmen were of the belief that there will be a gradual let-up in the urgent demand in view of reports that large numbers of poultry were being killed off due to inability to obtain feed or its high price.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 29 -

SUGAR IMPORTS SHARPLY LOWER, Washington - Entries of off-shore sugar—from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Hawaii—during January and February totaled 446,282 short tons, raw value, the Department of Agriculture reported. For the like period in 1945, imports amounted to 863,938 short tons. During January of this year 52,069 short tons of sugar were marketed by the mainland cane area and 131,171 tons by the continental beet area. For January, 1945, marketings were 64,238 and 89,070 tons, respectively. Sugar shipments will start to increase soon as the new crop is made available. The drop in shipments last month and in January is due to the low stocks left from last year's sub-normal crop.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Wall Street Journal.)

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Farm Digest 655-46-3

From the New York Wall Street Journal, March 29, (Cont) -

SCHENLEY DISTILLERS CORP. - The Schenley Distillers Corp.'s report for the next six months ended February 28 showed an extraordinary gain in net income, after taxes, to \$25.7 million from \$12.6 million in the like 1945 period and \$8 million in the like 1944 period. The latest net was equal to \$7.15 a share on the 3.6 million shares outstanding after giving effect to the two stock dividends in the past 12 months. Last year's earnings were equal to \$6.48 a share on the stock then outstanding but on the basis of the present capital would have been equal to only \$3.40 a share. The firm retired its outstanding preferred stock within the past 12 months. There was a substantial increase in the net before taxes and taxes paid were lower.

In trade circles it is expected that Schenley will be able to maintain its sales volume fairly well in spite of the shortage of grain. Stocks of liquor on hand are large and the firm is understood to have acquired substantial amounts of cane spirits from Cuba and other sources for blending.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, March 29 -

TRUMAN SEES NO NEED FOR U.S. RATIONING, Washington - President Truman said today that he saw no reason for the resumption of rationing in the United States to meet the world food shortage, as his famine emergency committee released a report for former President Herbert Hoover disclosing that conditions in three European countries were "difficult but intolerable."

The President told reporters at his press conference that he felt that ration controls should be reimposed if it proved necessary, but he did not believe they could be put into effect in time to help the present situation.

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LA GUARDIA AT U.N.R.R.A. HELM TODAY, Atlantic City - Former Mayor F. H. La Guardia of New York City arrived at Atlantic City this evening at the request of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council to accept election and induction tomorrow as the international group's new director general.

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PRICE CURB END IS SUGGESTED AS OUTPUT RISES, Chicago - Cessation of price control when a given industry reaches a production level 20 to 25 per cent above the period July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1941, was recommended today by Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution.

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CONSUMER ITEMS' PRICE OFF, Washington - Largely because the price of eggs fell, the cost of consumer goods to people in large cities dropped .4 per cent between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said tonight.

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From Watertown, N. Y. Daily Times, March 26 -

CITY CONSUMERS FACE WORST MEAT SHORTAGE, Washington, (UP) -- A livestock expert told congress today that city consumers are threatened with the most acute meat shortage in history within the next six months. H. M. Conway, research director of the National Livestock Producers association, told the house agriculture committee that unless something is done, meat supplies will be extremely short or nonexistent.

There will be "the most chaotic situation conceivable in the marketing and processing of livestock," he said.

As a remedy, he urged removal of all price ceilings and subsidies on livestock on June 30 -- present expiration date of the price control act. He said the immediate effect of the removal of these controls would be an increase in the price of high-grade cattle and a decrease in the price of poorer grades.

"The price of higher-grade cattle would rise no more than 15 per cent for the city consumer," he said. "This would result in a price no higher than the consumer is now paying on the black market."

Anyway, he said, price controls are being ignored throughout the nation.

Rep. Reid Murray, R., Wis., interrupted Conway to say that he was in a stockyard recently where 75 per cent of the livestock were going "outside legitimate channels."

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From The Milwaukee Journal, March 26, -

'DARK' BREAD, FLOUR REALLY CREAM COLOR - You'll have a chance to see the new emergency flour and the "dark" bread made from it in local stores this week and you'll discover that neither the flour nor the bread is black or dark or gray or even whole wheat color. Both flour and bread are only slightly creamy in color and if you met the bread, especially, all unsuspectingly without knowing what it was, you'd probably never think it was anything but the white bread you've been eating for years.

Yes, that's how little difference there is. The "new" bread, made with 80% extraction flour, looks a bit more like homemade bread, which is hardly ever as white as the professional baker's product. And the flour might be described as only a little less white than that we've had for the last years.

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From The Times-Picayune, March 26 -

BANKHEAD RAPS TEXTILE SHIFTS, (AP) Washington, -- There is more profit in weaving cotton than rayon, despite the fact some cotton men have shifted to rayon, an OPA spokesman told a Senate subcommittee today.

"Then there's a lot of cotton manufacturers who ought to be put in the insane asylum," Senator Bankhead, Democrat, Alabama, declared flatly.

The subcommittee, an offshoot of the Senate agriculture committee, is investigating the shortage of cotton clothing.

Exhibiting a cotton handkerchief retailing for \$1, Senator Bankhead said the "farmer's share" in it was less than one cent. He asked why OPA would not allow a few cents more on cotton while permitting such high retail prices.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, March 26 -

THE DAIRYMAN'S PROBLEM, Editorial, Wisconsin dairymen are -- and should be -- concerned about the new package which has been developed to make oleo-margarine more attractive and easier to color.

If dairymen are realistic, they must admit that, in the country at large, oleo has come to be a competitive item to be reckoned with. They must admit, too, that a high tax on oleo in the dairy states will not stop the competition, even in those states. The only thing that will prevent further capture of the butter market by the substitute is a change in the butter situation itself.

The milk producer starts with one advantage and one disadvantage. Butter is a superior product, but it is more costly. At the moment, too, it is unavailable in sufficient quantity. There is now a ceiling price, kept reasonably low through a substantial subsidy. Much butterfat which used to go into creameries is being diverted, however, because the producer can make more by selling fluid cream, which is not price controlled.

The answer to the present problem entails recognition of the fact that the price of fluid cream is now too high. Since subsidies must some day go, the time to end them is now. That will increase the retail price of butter about 12c a pound. If appropriate ceilings were put on fluid cream, adding another 2c to the price of butter should save the butter market and at the same time keep the dairyman's income at an encouragingly high level.

That is the kind of adjustment that the farmers should be for.

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From The Times-Picayune, March 26 -

HOW LONG THE FAMINE? Editorial, Voices raised in demand for a return to general food rationing in the United States are countered by others which say that the worst of the emergency will be over when the grain crops begin to come in this summer. For it is clear that even if the people were sold on the necessity of returning to the food cards as the means of saving lives in the famine-stricken areas of Europe and Asia, no such plan could be put into operation before the grain harvest begins.

In their various appeals for food saving, members of the Famine Emergency Committee indicated that successful relief of stricken millions would depend on what grain and fats could be sent within the next three months. Possible Former President Hoover had this in mind when he said that it would not be necessary to return to rationing in this country. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has branded any resort to general rationing as "impractical," meaning evidently that it would be widely opposed even could a system be installed before the worst of the crisis passes.

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From Watertown, N. Y. Daily Times, March 26 -

WARTIME SMOKE GENERATORS MAY HELP PROTECT CROPS, Washington, (UP) -- The Army Chemical Warfare Service announced today that it is cooperating with the agriculture department in tests to convert wartime smoke generators for peacetime use in protecting crops from frost and insects.

Agriculture specialists trained by the army in the operation of generators are testing the devices at 14 experiment stations from Florida to the Northwest. The experiments will determine their value in protecting cotton, fruit, tobacco and wheat from frost and insects.

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